



TRAVEL
Rites behind
the masks
of carnival



REVIEW
Where the dogs
race for
the fun of it



BOOKS
The mysterious
Peggy Lee
tells her story

LAST MONTH'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
424,000
No 63,602

THE TIMES

SATURDAY JANUARY 13 1990

30p

Gorbachov is accused of 'a cheap lie' Lithuanian rebuff for secession law offer

Vilnius (Renter) — Lithuanians demanding a return to their pre-war independence yesterday reacted sceptically to President Gorbachov's promise of a new law which could allow them to secede from the Soviet Union.

The draft law, which Mr Gorbachov announced would be put to an unprecedented nationwide referendum, was just "a vague promise designed to save time", Mr Algis Cekuolis, a senior member of the Lithuanian Communist Party, said.

"This is a cheap lie, it's a lie for naive people in the West,"

Mr Vytautas Landsbergis, president of Lithuania's pro-independence Sajudis movement, said of the proposal, adding "I wonder if it came from him or someone suggested it. It means other people will decide for us."

A legal expert in the Soviet Parliament in Moscow also dampened speculation of an

if you take the other path, I shall do everything to show you that you are leading your people to a dead end," he warned.

A spokesman for Sajudis reiterated that Lithuania's incorporation into the Soviet Union in 1940 had been illegal and that "there should not be a law on secession because Lithuania never entered the Soviet Union."

Mr Albert Grigoryants, a legal expert at the Supreme Soviet, said it would be "wrong to call the new law a law on secession", pointing out that the formal right to secede had for a long time been part of the Constitution.

"Secession is just one of the many variants of the solution of the question," he said. "The main thing is drawing up new relations between the centre and the republics."

He also emphasized, without giving details, that any decision on secession should take into account not only the will of the republic concerned, but also the "interests of the other Soviet republics".

In neighbouring Latvia, the parliament expressed support for Lithuanian independence and for the course of breaking from Moscow followed by its ruling Communist Party.

"The Latvian Supreme Soviet, as the supreme body of power of a sovereign state, expresses its support for the consistent course of its neighbour, Lithuania, towards independence," Latvian Radio said.

Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were incorporated into the Soviet Union after a 1939 Nazi-Soviet pact.

MOSCOW: Some 50 people demanding an independent Georgia are on hunger strike in Tbilisi, the republic's capital, which is paralyzed by a public transport strike called to press nationalist demands, nationalist sources said (AFP reports).

Interfax, a news digest published by Radio Moscow, meanwhile, reported that factories in the southern Soviet republic had been forced to stop production because of power cuts.

Flames of protest on day of mourning



Communism ablaze: Demonstrators in Bucharest burning the party flag during a rally to commemorate thousands killed in the uprising against Ceausescu.

Bucharest crowds march as soldiers stand aside

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

Thousands of anti-communist protesters marched through central Bucharest yesterday, shouting down the country's newly-appointed Prime Minister and calling for the immediate removal of communists from the government.

Mourners attending a remembrance day rally for the thousands who died in the uprising against Nicolae Ceausescu vented their anger against the National Salvation Front and the presence in government of figures closely associated with the former regime.

They called on the provisional government to abolish the Romanian Communist party, to provide jobs for the unemployed, increase salaries and co-opt workers and women into the administration. Among the chants was "yesterday Ceausescu, today Iliescu", "public trials for the terrorists" and in a reference to the victims — "they did not die for you".

The charismatic new Prime Minister, Mr Petre Roman, was repeatedly heckled angrily by the growing crowd as he stood on top of an armoured personnel carrier and urged the people not to demonstrate during what he described as "the crisis period". He promised that he would not stand as a candidate in the poll.

As with the street demonstrations that led to the overthrow of Ceausescu, the students led the protests. But they were cheered by thousands of people when they attacked the continuing lack of heating, light and food.

Chanting "Give us decent conditions", one column of over 2,000 angry students disrupted the solemn midday ceremony to commemorate the dead in the battle-scarred central area now renamed "Revolution Square". As I marched along with the students people standing in the snow shouted their support. Young soldiers, some with V-slogans scratched on their helmets, stood aside, reluctant to interfere with the protesters.

Shares plunge on inflation worries

By Our Financial Staff

Shares fell around the world yesterday on concerns about developments in the Soviet Union, US inflation and the high level of British pay settlements.

Shares in London reacted sharply to a 653-point overnight fall in Tokyo and almost £8 billion was wiped from the value of Britain's public companies as share prices fell through the 2,400 level.

Worries about continuing high interest rates and growing inflation, with this week's decision by the Ford unions to reject an offer of 10.2 per cent, also hit sentiment.

Wall Street had a poor start, with the Dow Jones industrial average at 2,720 — down 40 points in mid-morning trading. US producer prices rose sharply and retail prices fell, prompting fears of a recession and inflation.

In London, the narrower FT index of top 30 shares fell 31.4 to 1,909.1. Turnover was less than 600 million shares, which dealers said failed to justify this size of fall in the market generally.

It was a sad finale to the three-week New Year account, which had seen the market soar to a record 2,466.2 on January 3, buoyed by renewed confidence in the British economy.

NEXT WEEK

THE TIMES GUIDE

TO HEALTHY LIVING

- How healthy is the way you live? Next week *The Times* begins a five-part series to show you a healthy lifestyle.
- On Monday, discover the risks you face with a quiz by Dr Thomas Stuttaford. Other issues will examine the effects of work, relationships, exercise and the environment on health.
- Get on the right path in the 1990s with *The Times Guide to Healthy Living* all next week.

In today's 64-page Times

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Fuel costs spiral will drive air fares sky-high

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A sharp rise in air fares looks inevitable over the next few months because of the spiralling cost of aviation fuel.

Some airlines have already increased the cost of tickets by about 5 per cent, others are planning increases in the spring and all are facing reduced profits for the first quarter of this year.

The cost of fuel has risen by more than 30 per cent over the last few months and, although it has declined in the past few days, charter airlines have

begun to pass the cost on to tour operators. As a result, 38 tour companies have applied to levy a surcharge on holidays and more are expected to follow.

Most of the big tour operators who are members of the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) have a no-surcharge guarantee and others have agreed to bear the first 2 per cent of any increase.

Abta predicts that 80 per cent of holidays will not be subjected to surcharges.

US softens line on boat people

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor, Hong Kong

An international meeting to discuss Britain's compulsory repatriation scheme for Vietnamese boat people was called off yesterday amid signs of a possible compromise, including the possibility that Washington, which has strongly opposed it, would accept the principle of compulsory repatriation subject to important conditions.

It also emerged yesterday that Britain was having difficulty in agreeing a date with Vietnam for the next compulsory flight from Hong Kong to Hanoi.

The steering committee of the International Conference on Indochina Refugees was to have met in Geneva next Thursday and Friday to discuss the scheme, which has also aroused strong hostility from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Diplomatic sources say the meeting was put off because Washington wanted more time to prepare new ideas. Although they have not yet seen the American document, described as a "non-paper", it is thought that the conditions it has in mind take the form of a timetable under which boat people would be sent home against their will only if the

numbers returning of their own accord failed to reach an agreed level by a set date.

If the Geneva meeting is reconvened and Washington makes proposals of this type it will explain the cautious optimism shown by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, earlier this week.

He said then that, in discussions with Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and with Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, he found more understanding than he had expected.

Ron Brown returns to face the music

By Kerry Gill

Mr Ron Brown, the disgraced Labour MP for Leith, returned to his constituency from Westminster last night to face his biggest struggle since he entered the House of Commons in 1979.

Anger at Mr Brown's behaviour after his conviction for causing criminal damage to the home of his former mistress has proved greater than even he had imagined. He finally lost his firm hold on grassroots support in Leith during a series of branch meetings this week.

The three biggest of the five branches in Leith have demanded his immediate resignation and even his own branch, Granton/Trinity, has called on him to give an account of his actions.

Yesterday, it was clear that the nature of his conviction, for damaging the home of Mrs Nonna Longden, his former research assistant at Westminster, has alienated the majority of women party members in the constituency.

While supporters in Leith have largely turned a blind eye to his behaviour during an often-bizarre parliamentary career, Mr Brown now appears to have been all but abandoned. Only one branch, Piton/Muirhouse, backed him. Even trade union support may be in doubt.

Party officials, who have been circumspect in the past, are also becoming more outspoken. Mr Bill Axon, chairman of the Constituency Labour Party, said that, if it endorsed the call for Mr Brown's resignation, then the MP was morally bound to go.

The CLP meets on January 25 when Mr Brown will have his final chance to plead his case before what could result in either a vote of no confidence, at best, or a demand for his resignation.

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TOMORROW'S
SPORT

Favourite position
Jimmy Fitzgerald as he seeks a first victory in Europe's richest handicap hurdle

Test in Australia
Imran Khan leads Pakistan against Australia in Melbourne. John Woodcock reports

Ryan and Smith finish on top in Luton shake-up

By Dennis Siggy

After a day of comings and goings at Kenilworth Road, Luton Town, one place from the bottom of the first division, finished with a new manager and a new chairman and saw the departure of the coach who was expected to succeed Ray Harford.

Brian Cole, who controversially and publicly criticized Harford's style on New Year's Day, gave up as chairman for "personal and business commitments" after seven months in the position. He was succeeded by Roger Smith, a wealthy businessman, who has been a director of the club since July 1972, and is one of the major shareholders.

Luton carried on their policy of promoting from within the ranks when Jim Ryan, their reserve-team coach, was elevated to manager rather than Terry Mancini, who was temporarily put in charge when Harford left eight days before. Ryan, aged 44, first joined the club as a player in 1970. He made 184 appearances during a seven-year stay and has been coach to the reserves for 2½ seasons.

Ryan played in the Luton side that won promotion to the first division in 1974. He was a reserve-team player at Manchester United in the

1960s, winning a European Cup winners' medal at Old Trafford. While Ryan meets the players this morning to prepare for tomorrow's match at Anfield against Liverpool, Mancini will be heading for a golf course for the first time in months. "I will treat myself to a round," he said.

Mancini was given his parting on amicable terms with a settlement on the remaining 18 months of his contract. The supporters of Luton, who are more interested in playing results than boardroom power struggles, got an honest look at the future from the new manager. Ryan said: "I won't make any promises about staying in the first division or playing fantastic football, but we will work as hard as possible to do that."

"I have a certain feeling about the club and the way they play football. Everything about the job seemed right to me. I know the senior players well and I cannot think of another club I would like to manage. It is my club. I grew up with them."

Yesterday's developments are a follow-up to Cole's reaction to the crowd-barracking Harford following a 3-0 home defeat by Chelsea on December 30. Cole said that

Harford did not possess charisma and had only himself to blame for the crowd's reaction as he had never really won over their hearts.

Cole, aged 47, a life-long Luton supporter, who graduated from the terraces to the boardroom, succeeded David Evans, the Conservative MP for Welwyn and Hatfield, as chairman in June 1989.

Although Harford took Luton to Wembley three times in his two years in charge — beating Arsenal 3-2 in the Littlewoods Cup final in 1988 and losing to Reading in the Simod Cup the same season and to Nottingham Forest in the Littlewoods Cup last year — Cole criticized him as "a dour character, who doesn't smile often at supporters". When the remarks were not withdrawn, Harford left.

Cole will stay on as a director but, it is understood, there was some plain speaking by Evans at yesterday's board meeting. Mancini's reaction to his departure was to say: "I have not been given a chance because I have not been given the job. Having said that, I left on amicable terms. It was done very quickly and sharp."

Mancini said he wished to team up again with Harford. "I think we can make a good team somewhere."

Littlewoods decides to withdraw cup backing

By Louise Taylor

Littlewoods has decided against renewing its sponsorship of the League Cup after the final in April but the Football League is optimistic that a contract with a new backer will be signed by the end of next week.

League officials would not name potential successors yesterday but whoever is named next week will be committed to an agreement in excess of the £2.5 million, four-year Littlewoods contract. "The new sponsorship will be worth more," Trevor Phillips, the League's commercial director, admitted.

Phillips added that, in order not to deflect attention away from Littlewoods as this season's competition reaches its final stages, the announcement of the new backer would be "low key."

Several companies are understood to have courted

the League in connection with the cup contract, and Phillips said: "I looked for a considerable improvement in the sponsorship money this time. When Littlewoods took over, the money was not the important thing. It was post-Heyes, and it was the statement of confidence in football that counted. Littlewoods have seen us through some difficult times and we will always be grateful to them."

Before Littlewoods stepped in in 1986 the competition was underwritten by the Milk Marketing Board, its first sponsor, for five years.

The arrangement with the Liverpool-based concern has come to an apparently amicable end. Harry Thomas, the business development director of the Littlewoods group, said yesterday: "We have had no problems with the League

and we go not regard this as a question of pulling out. We have had a happy association but we feel it has served our purpose."

Littlewoods originally had until August to decide whether to take up an option to renew, but at Phillips's instigation that date was brought forward by seven months. That action reflects both a new found confidence in football on the part of the commercial world, and the marketing opportunities offered in a World Cup year.

Potential sponsors are likely to have established sporting links but with ITV contracted to screen the competition for the next three years satellite television is less likely to step into this particular breach.

In the past, English football has been wary of involvement from brewers.

Soviet blockers crush England

BARRY GREENWOOD



Over the wall: Carla Sinclair beats the defensive play of the Soviet union net players, Kotyova and Ogienko, at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester yesterday. Report, page 34

Record deal for cycling

By Peter Bryan

The continued rise in the popularity of cycling in Britain was further illustrated yesterday with the announcement of a record £2.3 million sponsorship of city-centre racing.

The deal, with Scottish Provident, the Edinburgh-based life assurance company, will establish professional city-centre racing as a big draw for television viewers — and a marketing vehicle to encourage new teams.

The company, which has interests throughout the UK, Ireland, Spain and Greece, will back the Scottish Provident League, an annual series of 10 races with a grand prize points system and a yellow jersey to denote the overall leader from race to race. Negotiations are also taking place for extensive television coverage of the series, both nationally and regionally.

Announcing his company's involvement in the sport, David Woods, managing director of Scottish Provident, described city-centre racing as "colourful and exciting".

The 10 host cities for the league have still to be confirmed but the organizer of the series, Alan Rushton, confirmed that London would be among the venues. Edinburgh, too, is another near certainty.

Races will be of one hour or slightly longer duration and are planned primarily for mid-week to avoid clashing with established weekend events. British riders contracted to foreign teams will be allowed to compete but the organizers will not be importing overseas competitors.

Prize-money this year will be £60,000, rising to £70,000 in 1991 and £80,000 in the final year of the series. Joey McLaughlin, the former Milk Race and Kellogg's Tour of Britain winner who rides for Ever Ready-Halfords, said he welcomed the series. He won the sprints jersey in the 1985 televised city-centre races before going abroad to compete.

Games preview, page 34

Davis climbs back to top of the rankings

By Steve Acteson

Steve Davis, snooker's world No. 1, yesterday took advantage of a hesitant Brian Morgan and Stephen Hendry's early departure from the Mercurie Credit Classic in Blackpool to climb back to the top of the provisional rankings for next season.

The world champion defeated Morgan, a first-season professional, 5-1 to reach the semi-finals and in doing so relegated Hendry to second place in the rankings, despite having opted out of three points-carrying tournaments this season and one last season.

A loose safety shot in the second frame gave Morgan the chance to clear from the table to pink and level at 1-1 but Davis's breaks of 33, 37 and 30 put him 3-1 ahead. In his own words "the frame after the interval was the telling one".

Morgan began it with a break of 31 but missed the yellow trying to screw back up the table for the remaining reds and Davis punished the error with a break of 65 before adding a clearance of 33. He then accelerated further with six-frame efforts of 63 and 59 to ensure victory.

Motivation has been a much used word during this tournament. Jimmy White had sufficiently little of it to withdraw because of influenza, Hendry, among others, played on while ill and lost. "My motivation is that I hate losing. I find it demoralizing," Davis said.

Considering he is the most admired player in the game he also had a curious admission to make: "I was determined not to play too slowly today. I tend to mimic whoever I play in terms of tempo. I've always done it and that's why I prefer

to play people like Jimmy White or Tony Drago. Your shots come that much quicker."

John Parrott, the world No. 2, yesterday parted company with Ian Doyle's Cue Masters managerial stable. Doyle said the split had been fashioned because of his "unworkable relationship" with Parrott's personal manager, Phil Miller, and stated: "I have finally decided to terminate John's contract."

Miller, however, said the decision had been mutually agreed, albeit at Doyle's suggestion, and added: "Doyle has continually tried to disrupt my relationship with John but as you can see, he has failed."

RESULTS (England unless stated): Cue Masters — S. Davis bt B. Morgan, 5-1; World Snooker — S. Davis bt S. Hendry, 5-1; D. O'Kane (NZ), 5-4; TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY: Semi-finals (best of 11 frames) 12.00 W King (AUS) vs J. Parrott (WAL); 2.00 S. Davis vs S. James or W. Jones (Wales).

Welcome boost to Williams

By John Blunsden

The Canon Williams Formula One motor racing team picked up a valuable new sponsor yesterday by signing a two-year agreement for a seven-figure sum with Labatt, the Canadian brewing and foods group.

Labatt's wide links with sport include a 45 per cent interest in the Toronto Blue Jays baseball club, one of the leading teams in the American League. They intend to use their involvement with Williams to extend their "Be a better driver — don't drink and drive" campaign.

This is not the first occasion on which a brewery has been associated with grand prix racing. A few years ago Courage appeared as an alternative sponsor to John Player with the Lotus team for a race or two.

Frank Williams, speaking at his team's headquarters in Didcot yesterday, where a staff of almost 150 support the cars driven by Riccardo

Adams and Thierry Boutsen, said he preferred the concept of multi-sponsor financing, in preference to the single big deals of his main rivals.

"It gives us more independence and if one sponsor should need to drop out, it may damage the ship, but it won't sink it."

Labatt will share equal billing with ICI, Elf and Barclay on the team's cars this year, with Canon remaining as the premier overall team sponsor.

Since its introduction late last season the Williams- Renault FW13 has undergone around 100 individual improvements during a winter development programme, the latest RS2 version of the Renault V10 engine, which is not interchangeable with last year's power unit. Alterations have also been made to the front suspension to eliminate some high-speed instability.

Next week, two cars, one of 1989 specification and the other incorporating the engineering changes, but without new bodywork, which will be fitted before the first race in March, are to be tested at Jarama, South Africa.

In its final form the new car will be designated the FW13B, but there will be a further development in mid-season when Renault are due to introduce another important change to their engine, which will require significant alterations to the Williams cars.

Games' record holder may be dismissed

Sydney — Lisa Martin, the clear favourite to win the women's marathon at the Commonwealth Games, in Auckland in just under three weeks' time, may be expelled from the Australian team because she wants to travel to and from the Games independently of the 316 other team members (David Powell writes).

Martin, the Commonwealth record holder with 2hr 23min 51sec, and a silver medal winner at the Seoul Olympics, wishes to be treated as a "special case", her coach, Dick Telford, says.

But the Australia chief de mission, Arthur Tunstall, said: "There are no stars in this team. They will leave as a team and if they don't, they don't go at all."

END COLUMN

A game that still lags far behind

By John Goodbody

The announcement of England's training plans for the 1991 World Rugby Union Cup brings into focus a tournament which will be of spectacular interest in the United Kingdom but which in global terms is a minor event.

Commercially it will be an overwhelming success since the sport appeals in a few countries to the affluent, who are the people the advertisers are seeking to attract.

However, rugby union remains a sport that is undeveloped compared to sports of far greater international prominence. This was exemplified by the recent tour of Britain by the Soviet Union, who were held 12-0 by Cornwall. One cannot think of many other sports in which the Soviet Union, one of three major international sporting powers and a country of 286 million people, could fail to beat an English county with a population of 554,000.

Rugby union is a minor sport in communist countries because it is not an Olympic sport and therefore receives scant financial support. It is also of park standard in the United States and most of Western Europe (except France and the British Isles), where professional sports rule.

The development has suffered

Of the countries which will participate in the 1991 World Cup, the sport is only really popular in the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Australia and New Zealand, the only one of these countries where it is the national sport.

At the 1987 World Cup, the discrepancy in quality was illustrated by some of the results: England 60, Japan 7; New Zealand 74, Italy 6; New Zealand 74, Fiji 13; France 70, Zimbabwe 12.

The very fact that it was not until 1987 that a world championship was staged shows the extent to which the game's development has suffered. Compare this with some other sports: the Olympic Games (1896), football (1930), basketball (1950), cycling (1893), and gymnastics (1903).

Internationally, rugby lags in popular interest and participation is way behind basketball, with 250 million players in 178 affiliated countries, volleyball, with 171 affiliated countries, and ice hockey, which may have fewer participants but has the concentrated excellence of a professional sport.

Rugby authorities justifiably argue that you cannot expect the same sort of excellence in an amateur as a professional game. American football may be played to a high level only in the United States, but in this month's Super Bowl, some players will be bigger and stronger than prop forwards and faster than most threequarters.

Dedication is a rugby rarity

However, what a few people in Rugby Union have only recently grasped is that dedication is commonplace in many genuinely amateur activities.

For a first-class rugby player to train twice a day, every day, out-of-season when the hard work should be done, is unusual. Yet this is commonplace among even club competitors in, say, athletics and swimming. These people are not being aided by sponsorship or trust funds. They are excited by the challenge of fulfilling their physical potential.

Rugby union has never been a sport where obsessive dedication has been applauded, the sort shown by Dan Gable, the Olympic wrestling champion, who trained five hours a day. When he won the US Collegiate title, he could not be found for the medal ceremony. He was in the sauna bath, completing his daily minimum of 1,000 press-ups.

It may be possible to sell Twickenham four times over for next week's international but the spectators should be aware that the game is for the under-achiever, a sport 20 years behind most amateur sports and even more behind professional sports.

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Reader's Digest

Denmark fills the dance card

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Denmark, the most frequent opponents during Bobby Robson's managerial reign, have agreed to fill the remaining gap in England's build-up to the World Cup finals. They will visit Wembley on May 15, a date set aside for the Rous Cup tournament, which has been held over for a year.

The Danes, the hosts when Robson took over from Ron Greenwood, will be playing England for the fifth time in less than eight years. Of the 37 other opponents, only Scotland (on seven occasions) and Northern Ireland (six) have appeared more regularly on the schedule.

Denmark, who effectively knocked England out of the finals of the 1984 European championship, opened and closed the international fixture list last season. They lost at Wembley in September, when Webb scored the lone goal in front of the second-lowest crowd to assemble in the national stadium. They were held to a 1-1 draw in Copenhagen in June, when Shilton made a record 109th appearance for England.

Denmark are considered to be one of the strongest European nations outside the 24 World Cup qualifiers. Yet they are potentially the weakest opponents in the forthcoming series of matches, during which England's belief threatens to be undermined.

England's 14-game unbeaten sequence will be endangered by Brazil on March 28. Thereafter, England will be stretched in turn by Czechoslovakia on April 25, Denmark, and Uruguay on May 22.

Protests gather

Further signs of organized protest in South Africa by an unofficial cricket tour by an English party emerged yesterday.

Krish Naidoo, the general secretary of the National Sports Congress, announced in Johannesburg that the NSC plans to engage in "peaceful but effective action" during the tour, which is due to start on January 26.

Meanwhile, Peter Hain, the anti-apartheid campaigner, said yesterday that he believes South Africa could be re-admitted to world sport but that the tour would not hasten their return, describing it as "totally the wrong event at the wrong time".

SPORT IN BRIEF

Left out

Britain's professional riders have been excluded from the Gurney three-day cycling classic in Scotland at Easter after insisting they be allowed to field six-man teams instead of the usual four. The Professional Cycling Association is now looking for funding to promote its own stage race at that time.

Last four

Durham Wasps, the holders, will meet Sunderland Chiefs and Whitley Warriors will play Cleveland Bombers in the semi-finals of ice hockey's Castle Eden Cup on February 6.

New captain

Pam Valentine, from Wrexham, was named yesterday as captain of the Welsh women's international golf team.

Time to go

Paris (Reuter) — Yannick Noah, aged 29, the French tennis player, said in an interview published yesterday with the monthly magazine *Tennis de France* that he plans to retire at the end of this year.

Noah: last year

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Noah: last year

Sentence 'too lenient'

Man who raped his former girl friend has term doubled

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A man who raped his former girl friend had his two-year sentence lengthened to four and a half years by the Court of Appeal in London yesterday under new powers to review over-lenient sentences.

Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, said the decision was a "victory for those of us who have been protesting against powder-puff sentences for criminals."

The judges, headed by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, agreed with Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney General, that the sentence on Paul Thornton, aged 31, was "unduly lenient".

Thornton, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, looked shocked as the decision was announced. Earlier, Mr Anthony Dalgleish, his counsel, accepted that the sentence imposed at St Albans Crown Court last September was lenient.

However, he urged the judges not to intervene under powers granted to them by the 1983 Criminal Justice Act which came into force last summer.

Lord Lane said Thornton had a 20-month relationship with the 18-year-old victim. She had asked that they remained friends after she ended it but after she called to visit him earlier last year, he stripped and raped her.

Lord Lane, who sat with Mr Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Hutchison, said: "The fact that the parties live together for 20 months does not obviously license the man to have sexual intercourse with the girl. It is, however, a factor to which some weight must be given."

"But we have come to the conclusion that this sentence was outside the proper limits of the judge's discretion in this case."

Mr Edward Bevan, counsel

for the Attorney General, said earlier that Thornton had used force when it must have been absolutely obvious to him that the girl was unwilling.

At St Albans, Judge Goldstone had told Thornton that men should not use their superior physical strength on

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, said yesterday that the Court of Appeal's decision was part of a pattern that reflected public concern over sentencing for rape. He said that in the past two years the average sentence for rape had increased from three years eight months to six years.

"In recent times the courts have been responding to public concern by increasing sentences. It would appear to be part of that pattern."

He used a baseball bat to smash the glass protection screen at the office in Bartley Green, Birmingham, after £4,000 in cash had been delivered.

Mr Edward Bevan, for the Attorney General, said a deterrent sentence was called for because small businesses such as sub post offices were particularly vulnerable to attack.

Lord Lane said: "So far as it is possible, the courts must provide such protection as they can to those who carry out the services which fulfill a very important function in the suburbs of our large cities."

"It must be made clear to those minded to commit these offences that severe sentences will be imposed in order to persuade robbers or other greedy people that it is simply not worth the candle."

Mr Henry Spooner, Lacey's counsel, said it would be foolish to pretend the sentence was not lenient. However, he said it was not so far out of line that the court should interfere.

In a second case before the court, a young sub post office raider who terrified an ass-

women, but that his case was at the lower end of the bracket.

Mr Dickens said: "I have, in the past, been rebuked in the House of Commons for criticizing judges for doling out too-lenient sentences."

"This decision entirely vindicates my criticism."

"This means that criminals can no longer walk out of a court laughing at authority believing they have been lightly treated."

"They now know that the spectre lurks of an increased punishment if the law officers think fit."

"These judges have doubled what was plainly a derisory sentence."

"I would have liked to see it increased further, but at least this will act as a serious warning to other potential rapists that they can no longer expect leniency from the Court of Appeal."

In a second case before the court, a young sub post office raider who terrified an ass-

tant with a baseball bat had a 30-month jail sentence doubled to five years.

The Court of Appeal judges acted on a recommendation by the Attorney General to increase the sentence on Steven Lloyd Lacey, aged 23, under their powers to review too-lenient penalties.

Lord Lane, sitting in London with the same two judges, agreed the sentence was "plainly below the acceptable limit".

Lacey, of Queenswood Road, Moseley, Birmingham, with only one previous court appearance for a minor offence and said to come from a good home, showed no emotion as the decision was announced.

Lacey carried out the raid with an accomplice who was never caught.

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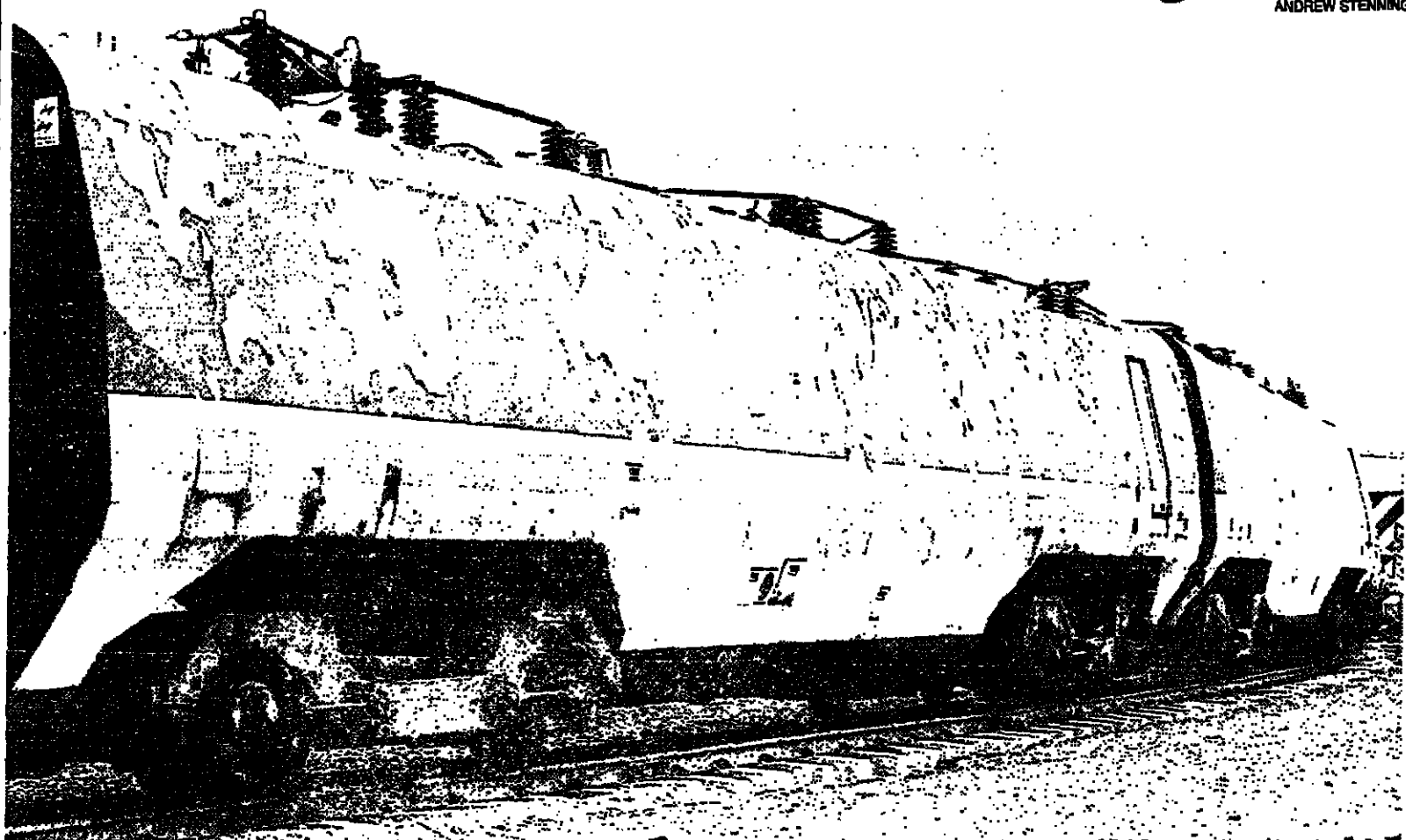
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Pride of BR stands disused and disgraced

ANDREW STENNING



Sidelined: The Advanced Passenger Train was the British answer to the European high-speed routes. It did not, however, complete its trials satisfactorily.

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

Standing in a siding in Crewe, one of British Rail's high-speed Advanced Passenger Trains, taken out of service in July 1985 after a series of humiliating trials, languishes in disgrace with the vision it once embodied.

The 10-year, £60 million project emerged from the realization that Britain could not develop the high-speed rail routes being built on the Continent; it would have to concentrate on obtaining high-speed performance on existing mainline track.

Scientists began examining rail suspension systems and the reaction of wheels on rails in the 1960s. The culmination of their efforts was the APT - complete with the infamous tilt mechanism for taking corners at speeds in excess of 140mph - to run between London and Glasgow.

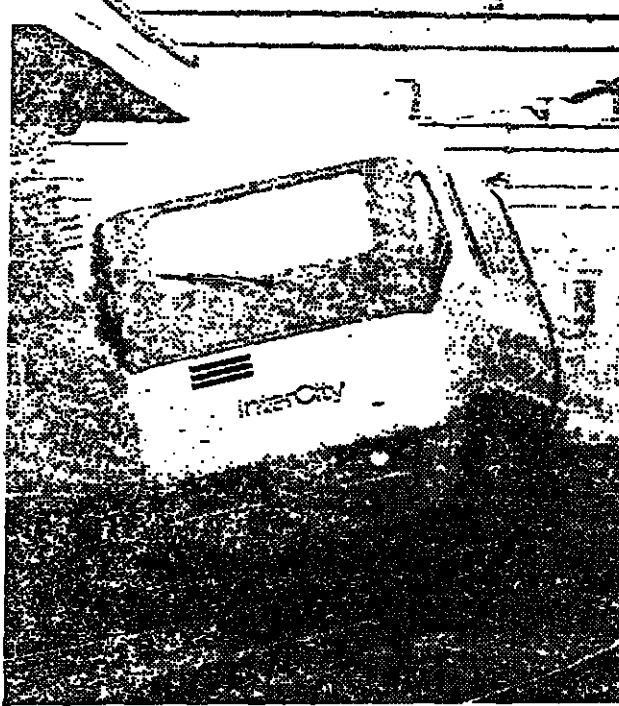
"The idea was simple. If it was dark, you would think the line between London and Glasgow was dead straight," a BR spokesman said. On one

occasion, however, the mechanism failed to tilt, and the journalists on board lost no time in branding the project a failure.

The train was made obsolete by the introduction of the shuttle service between London and Glasgow, and the completion of the motorway between the two cities. Demand fell and the APT was withdrawn because of high maintenance costs.

BR nevertheless insists that the £60 million spent on research and development was money well spent; many of the project's technical breakthroughs have been incorporated in the new 140mph InterCity 225s serving the east coast mainline between London and Leeds.

Now in the hands of the Crewe railway heritage museum, the APT seems to have been as unfortunate in retirement as it was in service. BR said yesterday: "It's been out in the open for a long time, and is beginning to look a bit sad."



The APT featured a tilt mechanism which was supposed to let the train take corners at speeds of more than 140mph.

Cash goes towards new car

The winner of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was Mr Deryck Allen of Sheffield.

He is a retired teacher of applied mathematics at Sheffield University and has been taking part in the competition since it started four years ago.

"I check my numbers in bed every morning, over a cup of tea," he said. The money will go towards a new car, which Mr Allen now hopes to buy within the next month.

"I was delighted to be the sole winner, and will certainly carry on with it," he said.

Hospital kidnap

Stolen baby 'may face serious danger'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

A one-day-old baby snatched from its parents in a London hospital by a woman posing as a health visitor could be in serious danger if it is not returned as soon as possible, Scotland Yard detectives warned yesterday.

Appealing for the woman to come forward or for help from the public, Det Supt John Bassett said the baby may have been taken from St Thomas's Hospital by someone ignorant of a small baby's needs, a woman who had lost a child or who was suffering from post-natal depression.

There are however few cases of a planned kidnapping of a child so young.

The 7lb 5oz baby called Alexandra has black hair and was dressed in a white Babygro with a teddy bear motif on one breast and covered with a white hospital blanket. She is healthy and not receiving any medication.

The parents, Miss Dawn Griffiths, aged 20, and Mr Geoffrey Harris, aged 25, were said by Mr Bassett to be

distracted. He added: "I think it is outrageous in this day and age that someone can walk in to a hospital and by passing themselves off as a child visitor can take a child from its parents." He thought a ransom demand was very unlikely.

Mr Bassett said there was no criticism of the hospital and yesterday police began checking records of women who might have lost babies recently and also details of former staff who would know the layout of the hospital.

The baby was snatched from Grosvenor Ward, a labour ward on the sixth floor of the hospital, on Thursday evening. The ward is divided into bays with cubicles and the woman went to the parents as they sat in the first cubicle by the public entrance.

The woman said she needed the baby for tests and weighing and the parents were not suspicious.

Mr Bassett said: "She walked in there with extreme coolness and said she was a



Mr Bassett holds clothing like that worn by the baby.

health visitor and said a few things which made the mother release the baby. From the little she said it is difficult to

know whether she had any knowledge of health work. It does look as though it was premeditated."

The woman, who called herself Christine and appeared to be in her early thirties, had a speech impediment which might have been a disguise. She had a baby carrier with her and slipped out of the hospital with the baby, unnoticed by staff.

The parents became alarmed after 20 minutes when the woman did not return. When the mother questioned staff they knew something was wrong since health visitors would not have been on the ward at that time.

Police were called and the hospital was sealed but the baby and the woman had vanished.

Mr Ian Balmers, the hospital's deputy general manager, yesterday said there was no immediate threat to the baby long as she was fed regularly.

"The baby was being breast fed and normally that would be on demand somewhere between every two

to four hours. But as long as she is being bottle fed she will be OK."

He said tighter security at the hospital might not have prevented the baby's disappearance. The daily operation of a large hospital relied on trust of the public.

"I am not sure that if we had increased security then officers could have prevented this."

"We had three security guards on duty at the hospital. This is the first time that anything like this has happened and we are going to review security."

Mr Balmers confirmed that the woman had entered the hospital carrying a "baby nest". He said: "The woman was carrying a baby nest, one of those cocoon-like things."

"It was not unusual, however, when she took the baby out of the hospital - there is nothing unusual about a mother carrying a child out of hospital. The staff on the ward were doing other duties and did not take any notice of the woman," he said.

Speeded up health reforms timetable 'is a nightmare'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The timetable for the health service reforms has been significantly speeded up to ensure that an internal market is adopted uniformly across the country by April next year, the Government said yesterday.

However, health service managers said last night that it would be almost impossible to meet the ambitious new timescale, which brings some of the proposals forward by three years, and described it as a "nightmare".

Under guidance issued with the NHS White Paper, districts were supposed to draw up contracts for services with individual hospitals in stages, between 1991 and 1994.

Changes in the method of allocating resources to reflect the resident population, essential for an internal market, were to be introduced under a similarly phased timescale.

Both moves would then allow health authorities to start trading with hospitals and NHS trusts under an internal market.

However, in a written Commons answer, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said that he expected all districts to have set up contracts with NHS trusts, and other "directly managed" hospitals and units, by April 1991. To enable them to do this, all districts would be funded to meet the cost of services used by their own residents from the same date.

"This timetable will enable the benefits of contractual funding to be achieved more quickly and more uniformly than original proposals," Mr Clarke said.

Working Paper 2 which involved different District

Health Authorities and units moving at different timescales," Mr Clarke said.

However, Miss Barbara Young, former president of the Institute of Health Services Management, said that many hospitals would find it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to meet the new deadline. Most hospitals did not have the information systems to produce even rough costs of their services.

"It will be a nightmare to get all the work done to start the system operating in time," Miss Young, district general manager of Parkside health authority, west London, said.

Managers and accountants already had their hands full trying to sort out financial difficulties in many districts, she said. Hospitals could find in April 1991 that they did not have enough money to fund services because contracts had not been properly costed.

The change in the timetable is due mainly to the impracticality of phasing in the reforms. Ministers realized that if some self-governing hospitals and GP budgets were to start operating in April 1991, they would need costings based on resident populations.

Working Paper 2 suggests that districts and GPs should have contracts in place with self-governing hospitals by April 1991 and draw up all contracts with individual hospital and management units by April 1994 at the latest.

Although Mr Clarke's Commons answer says the timetable has been discussed and agreed with NHS managers, it is understood that only regional officers were consulted.

Specialists fear care of elderly will suffer

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Standards of care for the elderly will be decreased dramatically as a result of the Government's health service reforms, medical specialists say in the January issue of the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*.

The new contract for general practitioners could mean that some elderly people will find it harder to register with a GP, while the reforms will damage hospital care, according to two consultants in geriatric medicine, Dr Roger Lewis and Dr Robin McNabb, of Guy's Hospital, south-east London.

They say the introduction of GPs' budgets will encourage doctors to limit costs by reducing hospital referrals and investigations of illnesses.

"The elderly are prime targets for such neglect. The Government's policy of promoting private nursing homes will encourage this approach, since any neglect that leads to patients needing continuous nursing care can be resolved by transferring the patient to a private nursing home without having a specialist assessment."

It would be financially expedient for GPs to "sugarcoat" a physically impaired and senile patient that a more satisfactory place to live would be in such a home. "This would then be at the Government's expense rather than to the detriment of the GP's budget."

The consultants argue that while the emphasis of the government reforms is on cost-effectiveness, private nursing homes are now costing the taxpayer about £1,000 million a year.

"Any elderly patient can be admitted without the agreement of, or an examination by, their GP, let alone an assessment by a hospital team specially trained in elderly care," they say.

"Elderly people can thus be admitted at the taxpayers' expense, even though such care is not necessary." Many patients were uprooted, away from familiar surroundings.

"The Government's plans will change the face of geriatric medicine, possibly to the point of extinction. Planning services for the local population will be compromised, the quality of patient discharge will deteriorate, acute admissions to geriatric departments will be reduced and continuing care handed increasingly to the private sector."

Abduction conforms to characteristic pattern

By Libby Jukes

The abduction of a new-born baby from St Thomas's Hospital by a bogus health visitor on Thursday night bears remarkable similarities to the kidnapping of Natalie Horrell in May 1988 and conforms to one of three characteristic patterns identified in random child stealing.

Mrs Maggie Horrell of Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, who was reunited with her daughter five days after she was taken by a woman posing as a detective in a Cardiff store, yesterday offered her support to the parents of Alexandra Kingsley.

"It is the most awful nightmare any

mother can go through. You have to fight the feeling of blaming yourself for what has happened to your child. You must not blame yourself because it can happen to any mother."

Delia McCall, aged 44, was jailed for three years for the premeditated kidnapping of Natalie Horrell, aged five months. At her trial she was described as "a pathological liar" who had feigned pregnancy to her estranged husband on three occasions.

The case bears the hallmarks of what Dr Paul d'Orban, consultant psychiatrist at the Royal Free Hospital, north London, describes as "manipulative stealing, involving a

woman who needs to produce a baby to cement an unstable relationship, often following a miscarriage."

But Dr d'Orban believes that "young women from emotionally deprived backgrounds and in need of comfort" are more frequent offenders.

"They may have had a child adopted because they are unable to look after it, and are desperate for something they can call their own," he said. Probation is usually the most appropriate "treatment".

"These women need emotional guidance to help them mature and develop their self-esteem."

A third group of offenders, for

whom detention in hospital may be the only answer, are women suffering a chronic mental illness, such as schizophrenia, who steal a child during an acute relapse, sometimes under the delusion that it is their own. They are normally caught quickly, because their condition is obvious to police and the public.

So-called "tug-of-love" cases apart, there are about 50 convictions every year. Random child stealing by women, Dr d'Orban insists, has primarily psychological motives.

"It takes more than an overwhelming maternal urge for a woman to act on fantasies or temptation."

picture very late in the day, without having done his "work-up", had not done enough. Cross-questioned by Mr Anthony Aridge, QC, for Dr Crockett, Mr Ross-Taylor agreed that there were some people who did not think it was unethical to pay donors, but for his part he would not carry out a transplant operation unless he was convinced that there was an emotional relationship between donor and recipient. This did not mean solely that they were close relatives.

He said he would need to be satisfied that it was an act of altruism; by definition, that precluded any payment.

Mr Ross-Taylor said that there was a shortage of cadaver kidneys.

There were some 3,800 people on the waiting list for transplants and only about 2,000 operations were likely to be carried out this year.

He said that it would be "highly unethical" if parents were to receive

payment for making the organ of a dead child available. The medical profession was constantly being accused of using undesirable means of persuading people to part with their organs all of which were totally untrue.

If it were to become involved with financial considerations, it would give further ammunition to those who were opposed to transplants.

Mr Ross-Taylor said that if live donors were going to be brought from overseas, those responsible would have to be very careful that they were not given misleading information, that they were properly informed of the risks and that no unacceptable forms of persuasion were exerted.

"Would you include payment among those unacceptable forms of persuasion?" Mr Henderson asked. "Top of the list," Mr Ross-Taylor said.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Surgeons 'ultimately responsible for getting donor's consent'

By John Young

A surgeon carrying out a transplant operation could not avoid the ultimate responsibility of ensuring that the donor had freely consented, a disciplinary hearing of the General Medical Council was told yesterday.

Mr Robert Ross-Taylor, a former president of the British Transplantation Society and a consultant surgeon at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, told the hearing that he thought the surgeon was entitled to expect that others concerned in the operation had carried out their parts.

However, if the "team" let him down he could not abdicate his responsibility for obtaining the donor's consent.

Mr Ross-Taylor was giving evidence at the end of the third week of the hearing into charges of serious professional misconduct against Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley

Street kidney specialist; Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon; and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist and donor surgeon.

Mr John Goldring, QC, for Mr Joyce, recalled that the hearing had been told that in many cases the donor surgeon, who removes the organ from the donor, was simply used by the transplant surgeon, who operates on the recipient, as "a technician."

"To me that is an anathema," Mr Ross-Taylor said.

"That does not mean necessarily that it is improper," Mr Goldring asked. "I think it does," Mr Ross-Taylor said.

Mr Goldring suggested that in many cases the donor surgeon would take it on trust that the physician and the transplant surgeon had made the necessary inquiries and that it was ethical to operate.

Mr Ross-Taylor said that surgeons should not operate on people without checking the investigations, without seeing

patients beforehand and without ensuring that not just the physical aspects of the operation but that the whole procedure was correct. "If you choose to take that on trust from someone else I think you are crazy," he said.

Doctors were all taught at medical school and during their postgraduate training that responsibility did not start when the knife was put in or end with the removal of the last stitch, he said.

Mr Goldring suggested that frequently the donor surgeon was not called to the hospital until the day before the operation was due to take place. "Would that system be right?" he asked. "It would not," Mr Ross-Taylor said.

Mr Goldring suggested that Mr Ross-Taylor was exercising his professional judgement and that others might be exercising theirs.

Mr Ross-Taylor agreed but added that a donor surgeon who was brought into the

operation was not called to the hospital until the day before the operation was due to take place. "Would that system be right?" he asked. "It would not," Mr Ross-Taylor said.

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You can tell it with your eyes closed.

Couple 'trapped' in Spain for 18 months by holiday accident

By David Sapstead

An English couple yesterday said they had been "trapped" in a tiny bedstrut in Spain for the past 18 months after a car accident had destroyed their lives and left them almost penniless.

One of the country's largest insurance companies warned that the plight of Mr Stanley Lewis and his wife Rita, who was crippled by the crash in July 1987, illustrated an important but little appreciated problem for Britons involved in car accidents abroad.

Norwich Union said: "The public are being misled into thinking that, because European barriers are coming down and because British insurance documents are now acceptable in other Common Market countries, they can expect the same cover abroad as they can at home. The fact is they can't unless they have obtained a 'green card' and the personal cover in many European countries is much, much lower than it is in Britain."

In the case of Mrs Lewis, it meant that third-party personal injury liability was restricted to a maximum of £8,500 under Spanish law. Under British requirements, there has traditionally been unlimited personal cover.

The couple have been fighting a lengthy legal battle in Spain to try to get compensation for Mrs Lewis, aged 52, who was a keen sportswoman and dancer before she sustained extensive chest and leg injuries in the accident.

At the couple's £15,000 bedstrut in Fuengirola on the Costa del Sol, Mrs Lewis said:

"Our lives have been completely shattered. We have lost everything. All our savings have gone on medical bills and trying to survive since the crash. I estimate it has cost us more than £40,000. We cannot afford to go on living in Spain, but we have no money to return to England. Our situation is desperate. We are trapped."

The other vehicle involved in the crash was a Mercedes 450SL sports car belonging to Sir Graham Eyre, QC, a deputy judge. Sir Graham believed the vehicle to be locked in the garage of his villa near Calahonda when, in fact, it had been taken without his permission by Sr Jose York, a Spaniard who claimed he was employed part-time to look after the Mercedes. According to Spanish police, Sr York was drunk and had driven up the wrong side of the highway leading to Malaga airport when he crashed into the couple's Peugeot being driven by Mrs Lewis.

She was trapped for more than an hour with a crushed chest, broken ribs, internal bleeding and extensive leg injuries. "It was a miracle I survived," she said.

Sr York claimed at the time that, despite not having a driving licence, he had Sir Graham's permission to drive. He has since left the area and cannot be traced. Sir Graham's own 'green card' was not in force because he was not in Britain and has stated that Sr York had no permission to drive the car. The couple themselves did not have 'green card' cover.

The Norwich Union, Sir Graham's insurers, said in a letter to Mr and Mrs Lewis's Spanish solicitor: "As the driver is Spanish and is not subject to the jurisdiction of our country, any proceedings issued must be in Spain against the driver."

"A 'green card' was not in force at the time of the accident. Therefore, the cover is restricted to the minimum compulsory insurance in Spain."

Mrs Lewis, who has had numerous operations on her legs and still requires further surgery, said she and her husband had sold their home in Tamworth, Staffordshire, after her husband retired from his job as a Jaguar car worker and had decided to take a long holiday on the Costa del Sol to decide their future.

Mr and Mrs Lewis: Crash happened while on holiday to discuss their future.

Hands-on lesson about owls ready for take-off



Mrs Emma Ford with two of the owls which feature in Britain's first course on conservation and handling of the birds. Fears about their dwindling numbers prompted Mrs Ford and her

husband Stephen to establish the six-day residential course at the British School of Falconry at Stelling Minnis, Kent, which the couple founded in 1982. For £250 participants will be

taught about hand-rearing, breeding and flying owls. Mrs Ford, who holds the title Country Woman of the Year, said: "Rearing owls is a very difficult proposition. They can lay as many as

nine eggs over an 18-day period, which creates incubation problems for the mother. We are trying to encourage breeding pairs to be set up in aviaries to help the continuation of the birds."

Time system change

Warning of darkness and danger

By Kerry Gill

Large areas of Scotland would be plunged into darkness and danger during winter mornings if proposals to adopt Central European time were enacted in Britain, the Scottish National Party says.

It has condemned any attempt to have the clocks put forward and has written to Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, expressing its anger at the Government taking no account of Scottish feelings on the issue.

Mr John Swinney, the party's national secretary, said yesterday: "Yet again, it is crystal clear that we have a London government which is completely out of touch with Scottish opinion and is only concerned with the views and the well-being of the south of England."

There was no need for a single European zone, he said in a letter to Mr Waddington.

Mr Swinney pointed out that the United States and the Soviet Union managed to live with several different

time zones with ease. A broad section of the Scottish community and industrial sectors had united against any change, he maintained.

"Public concern over the safety of schoolchildren ranks as paramount in the concerns of many of us. In addition, those employed outdoors, such as agricultural and construction workers, would be forced to alter their normal working hours or alternatively spend the first two hours of their day in darkness and often freezing temperatures."

Mr Swinney's letter added: "If public speculation is to be believed, it is staggering that your department has rejected the consensus of opinion within Scotland where particular hardship will be caused as a result of these changes."

The Government is widely expected to decide in favour of a change. But if a parliamentary debate is held on the subject, it is expected that Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland,

will fight the plan. All political parties in Scotland oppose a change which would mean day breaking at 10am in the north of Scotland in winter.

Special maps of Scotland are to be drawn to show areas threatened by acid rain. An Edinburgh conference in 1988 found that there was a need to identify such areas.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Scottish environment minister, said yesterday: "The symposium confirmed that the area south of the Great Glen is vulnerable to acidification with Gallopy and the Trossachs showing the most significant effects."

There had been slight improvement in acidity levels since 1970 "but further emission reduction of at least 50 per cent will be necessary to produce really significant improvements."

The maps of the sensitive areas are to be produced by the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute.

Boy, 11, is accused of father's murder

A boy aged 11 appeared before Rosendale magistrates at Rawtenstall, Lancashire, charged with the murder of his father, aged 70. He spoke four times to confirm his name, age, that he understood the charge and to give his address.

Miss Patricia Bramley, for the prosecution, successfully applied for him to be remanded in the care of a local authority outside the district until next Friday. There was no bail application. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Actor buried

Ian Charleson, the actor who died after a long struggle against the Aids virus, was buried yesterday in Edinburgh. Only family and close friends attended. A memorial service will be held in London.

Orphans' treat

Rugby union clubs in Cumbria are planning to bring 150 Romanian orphans to the Lake District for Easter. The clubs entertained Romanian teams before the uprising.

Drain gain

The Stanton Works, of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, has won a £250,000 contract to provide drains for a prison near Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, so that each cell can have a flush lavatory.

Police search

Police with dogs searched the area around Milnthorpe, Cumbria, yesterday for Miss Valerie Smith, aged 28, who was last seen on Thursday evening.

Child drowned

A deputy coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death on Jaskaran Dhinia, aged two, of Irwell Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire, who drowned while playing in her bath.

Aids deaths up

Sixty-four people had died from Aids in Scotland by the end of 1989, out of 132 reported cases. Six more cases were reported in December than the previous month and one more death.

Scottish Enterprise head named

Sir David Nickson, one of Scotland's leading businessmen, was yesterday appointed as the chairman of Scottish Enterprise, which will merge the work of the Scottish Development Agency and the Training Agency (Kerry Gill writes).

Sir David, chairman of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, is presently chairman of the SDA. His appointment, by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Sec-

retary of State for Scotland, had been widely predicted. Scottish Enterprise is to be established by the Government later this year.

More surprising, however, was the announcement yesterday that Mr Iain Robertson, chief executive of the SDA, had chosen to return to the private sector. He is to become group finance director of County Natwest Limited. Scottish Enterprise will seek

to regenerate the Scottish economy by merging training and economic development functions.

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise organization, which is to replace the Highlands and Islands Development Board, will run in parallel.

Much of the workload and decision making will be handled by small enterprise bodies run by local businessmen.

Detective's plea to anonymous caller

By Peter Davenport

A detective leading the investigation into the murder of a girl aged 10 four years ago made an urgent appeal yesterday to an anonymous woman informant who might have important information about the case.

The woman left a message on the answering phone at a West Yorkshire Police incident room in Leeds manned by officers investigating the abduction and murder of Sarah Harper.

She disappeared on March 26, 1986, near her home in Morley and her partly clothed body was found on April 19, almost 70 miles away in the river Trent, Nottinghamshire. She had been violently attacked and sexually assaulted.

Since her murder detectives, headed by Det Supt John Stainthorpe, have interviewed more than 15,000 people. When Mr Stainthorpe arrived at work yesterday he found a minute-long message on the incident room answering phone from a woman who did not give her name. Later he said: "I urgently want to

hear from this woman again and strongly appeal to her to ring me. I will meet her anywhere at any time and promise her complete anonymity."

Mr Stainthorpe said he was convinced the message was not a "crank" call. He declined to disclose the information given but said it would be investigated further. "There are, however, certain questions I would like to put to her."

The murder of Sarah is also the subject of a wider inquiry, involving six police forces, investigating possible connections with the killing of two other girls.

Susan Maxwell, aged 11, was abducted while near her home at Coldstream in the Borders in July 1982 and her body found 15 days later, 200 miles away at Loxley, Staffordshire.

A year later, Caroline Hogg, aged five, was abducted near her home in Edinburgh and her body was found 10 days later, near Twycross, in Leicestershire.

Unionists fear opposition to Anglo-Irish pact fading

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

A decision this week by a Unionist-controlled council to end its boycott of Stormont ministers is being viewed with grave concern by leaders of Ulster's two Unionist parties.

In the wake of the keynote speech by Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in which he expressed hopes that inter-party talks might soon be possible, Unionist leaders are worried that their four-year campaign of opposition to the Anglo-Irish Agreement may be crumbling at the precipitate moment.

Ards Borough Council in Co Down decided on Tuesday by 11 votes to 7 to formally end its boycott—in place since December 10, 1985, a month after the signing of the treaty.

It is the province's first Unionist-controlled council to lift its ban and the decision defied the wishes of Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) and Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) leaders.

Mr Jim Wilson, UUP secretary, said yesterday: "I would like to see the party strengthening its position in relation to the Anglo-Irish

Agreement rather than showing signs of weakness."

He did not know of other Unionist-controlled councils contemplating a similar move, though he was aware that individual councillors elsewhere favoured lifting the ban.

Government sources have welcomed the Ards decision, saying it helped to give substance to Mr Brooke's confidence that the political environment was improving.

The Ards decision, on a motion proposed by Mr Bobby McBride, a UUP councillor, came after a heated

debate. It was passed with the backing of six of the seven UUP members present—the other abstained—and with the support of all four alliance councillors and one independent. All seven DUP members voted against.

The motion said that while the council resolutely opposed the Anglo-Irish Agreement, its policy of boycotting Northern

Ireland Office ministers had "outlived its usefulness."

Mr McBride said the boycott had rendered councillors unable to influence government policy. "It is not necessary to remain aloof from NIO ministers who continue to make the major decisions affecting our borough."

"I would like this council and its officers to be able to argue with ministers and influence ministerial decisions. The boycott should, and can, be replaced by more powerful means—none greater than democratic argument," he said.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, has met the chairmen of the four newly created Conservative Associations in Ulster to discuss plans for their further growth (Nigel Williamson writes). He said yesterday he was "delighted" to hear of the progress the associations had made.

Conservative candidates have stood in council by-elections in the province and may stand against Ulster Unionists at the next general election.

Gull deaths renew pesticide concern

Scientists in Scotland have found high levels of the chemical Dieldrin, the main ingredient of a pesticide used in the fish farming industry, in 15 dead herring gulls (Kerry Gill writes).

The gulls were found near fish cages in north-west Sutherland and were said by an on-looker to be "dropping from the sky" after apparently consuming the pesticide Nuvan.

The gulls were found at a fish farm in Badcall Bay, close to the village of Scourie, operated by Mr Joseph Johnston and Co. of Montrose. The incident was reported and the dead gulls sent for analysis.

Conservationists expressed deep concern over the incident; for several years they have criticized the use of Nuvan against sea lice.

Mr Marshall Halliday, managing director of Joseph Johnston and chairman of the Scottish Salmon Growers' Association, said he was certain the chemical had come from another source.

He denied any suggestion that the poison had been deliberately laid around the cages.

The birds were spotted by the farm manager who notified

the Thurso Veterinary Investigation Centre. Their tissue was sent to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries laboratory at East Craig, Edinburgh.

A laboratory said the matter was under discussion between the department and Joseph Johnston.

Mr Halliday said the deaths were a mystery. The birds were found over two days in November.

"We were surprised and very concerned and immediately checked all our procedures and we are satisfied that there is no way the Dieldrin could come from the fish farm."

"We pride ourselves on being a responsible company in an environmental sense and in this instance we believe we have acted totally responsibly," he said.

Mr David Dick, investigations officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said he was appalled by the incident. The link between the chemical and fish farming had become notorious. Although herring gulls were not a protected species the area around fish cages attracted protected birds such as herons, cormorants and shags.

Heritage body stops church auction of royal tomb

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

The tomb of one of Queen Victoria's first cousins has narrowly escaped auction at Sotheby's after intervention by heritage bodies.

A priest had sent it for auction because there were plans to convert the Roman Catholic church in which it stood into a photographic studio.

The recumbent effigy of the Duchesse de Nemours, wife of King Louis-Philippe's second son, comes from the church of St Charles Borromeo, at Weybridge, Surrey, which was used by the French Royal family in exile.

The work by Henri Chapu, the most distinguished French sculptor of the age, was commissioned when the duchess died after childbirth, at the age of 34 in the 1830s.

It comprises a marble portrait of the duchess surrounded by her flowing hair which, it is said, was being combed as she died. In 1979 the duchess's bones were removed to the family mausoleum at the Royal Chapel of St Louis Drex in

France at the request of a descendant.

Recently, during a £3.5 million project to build a new Roman Catholic church at Weybridge and convert St Charles Borromeo, Father Charles Jeffries, who was in charge of the scheme, decided to sell the tomb to France.

"The bones have been moved back to France, and as we are moving out of the church it seemed a sensible thing to get the tomb back to the rightful body," Father Jeffries said.

"But the French were not interested in it, except as a gift, and so it has gone to Sotheby's."

He had been completely unaware of the legal implications and was astonished at the outcry.

He said he had been advised that the best way to get it back to where he believed it belonged would be to auction it, giving "wealthy French families" an opportunity to buy.

The tomb was taken to Sotheby's, London, where it was valued at £10,000-



The effigy of the Duchesse de Nemours, whose removal is at the centre of the dispute.

Weybridge. He said the effigy was one of a group of 11 royal tombs in Weybridge's two old Roman Catholic churches and "a great deal of historic interest lies in their survival as a complete set."

Lobbyists were particularly incensed because they see the incident as another example of the Roman Catholic church taking advantage of a loophole in Listed Buildings law from which it is exempt.

At the last annual meeting of the Victorian Society, Mr Howell called for the ending of ecclesiastical exemption for non-Anglican churches.

"The whole business shows the Catholic church needs to be regulated by listed building regulations," Mr Pross said.

Now, on the advice of Dr Richard Morris of English Heritage, the local council has insisted that Father Jeffries put in a formal retrospective application for permission to remove the tomb. In the mean time he must bring it back.

The likelihood that permission for the removal of the tomb will be granted is slight, considering the force of objection.

The irony is that the court case on which the heritage groups are basing their stance, which involved the conviction of an executor for the estate of Orchardleigh House, near Frome, Somerset, for selling fixtures and fittings, is due to come to appeal in April, and may be overturned.

Appeal against City scheme by Palumbo

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The conservation group Save Britain's Heritage is to appeal against a High Court decision to allow the developer Peter Palumbo to go ahead with his controversial £140 million scheme involving the demolition of eight listed buildings in the City of London.

The scheme, on the Mappin and Webb site near Mansion House, has been the subject of two public inquiries.

It was finally approved by Mr Nicholas Ridley, then Secretary of State for the Environment, last June.

Save Britain's Heritage took the issue to the High Court in November, arguing that it was a crucial test case and claiming that Mr Ridley had been wrong to approve it.

The group's objections were overruled and it was ordered to pay three-quarters of the costs, estimated at £50,000.

Announcing the decision to appeal, Mr Marcus Binney, president of Save Britain's Heritage, said yesterday: "We

believe this case has major implications for listed buildings and conservation areas all over Britain."

"We remain profoundly dissatisfied with the Secretary of State's reasoning in allowing the demolition of the eight listed buildings and a whole acre of London's central conservation area."

The designs by James Stirling for the new buildings to replace the listed Victorian premises were criticized by the Prince of Wales, who likened them to a "1930s wireless set."

Mr Ridley, however, accepted the assessment of the inquiry inspector that the proposals "by their dignified order, their imaginative ingenuity and pervading overall consistency, would contribute more both to the immediate environment and to the architectural heritage than the retention of the existing buildings". The inspector also said of the Stirling design: "It might just be a masterpiece."

NEWS ROUNDUP

Waddington gives submission pledge

New submissions to the Home Office on behalf of the six men convicted of the Birmingham public house bombings 15 years ago would be considered very speedily, Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, said yesterday (Craig Seton writes).

Mr Waddington said he had started studying the submissions presented to his office, but he was not yet in a position to say whether they amounted to new evidence which could be considered by a court.

The Home Secretary said: "I have a clear responsibility to consider whether there would be new evidence or new considerations which were not before the courts before and which justify the matter going back before the court. If such substantial new evidence is put before me, I will not shrink from doing my duty, but we are not there yet."

Mr Waddington also denied that an electronic tagging experiment carried out by magistrates in Nottingham had finished two weeks early. He said the pilot scheme was not "a dead duck by any manner of means".

Tesco fined £1,200

The Tesco supermarket at Chesham, Hertfordshire yesterday pleaded guilty to six charges of giving misleading information about the price of goods in a hearing at Bulmer East Magistrates' Court. It was fined £1,200 and ordered to pay £151 costs.

A matter of 14p in false pricing led to the store being forced to change its nationwide pricing policy. Mrs Heather Knowlson set a series of trading standards checks in train after she noticed that the price shown on her till receipt did not tally with that shown registered by the bar scanner.

EC politics defended

Sir Leon Brittan, a European Community commissioner, yesterday entered the dispute between the Government and Conservative members of the European Parliament by calling on Westminster Tories to stop treating EC politics as a "ghetto" (Nigel Williamson writes). He called on MPs and MEPs to work for the good of the party, but his intervention will be interpreted as a rebuke to the Government. Tory MEPs are to meet the Prime Minister on January 24.

170 Liverpool jobs go

More than 160 job losses were announced yesterday at two Liverpool companies. The margarine producers Pura Foods are to shed 125 jobs at their Bottle factory, and Higsons, the brewers, are to end production in Liverpool with the loss of a further 45 jobs. Mr Jim Weir, Pura's managing director, said that the company's Regent Road factory was no longer economic and would be run down over six months.

Shooting case remand

Robert Sartin, aged 22, of Whitley Bay, who is accused of murder and 13 charges of attempted murder, denied one of the charges at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court yesterday. He was arrested shortly after a man was killed and 13 others wounded by gunshots in Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, last April. He denied the one charge put to him, that he attempted to murder Mr William Frank Roberts, and he was remanded in custody until February 19.

Barricades in prison

An inquiry was ordered yesterday by the governor, Miss Jo Fowler, into how a group of about 20 prisoners managed to take over F wing of the 400-prisoner medium-security Blundeston Prison near Lowestoft, Suffolk, and hold prison officers at bay with barricades for more than four hours overnight on Thursday. The Home Office said that the disturbance had started in the dining room as a result of an argument between two prisoners.

More police and Army to run 999 services

By Kevin Eason

More police and Army vehicles have been drafted into the ambulance dispute as attitudes harden on both sides in the dispute with a fresh warning from Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, that he would not allow a pay explosion by giving in to union demands.

Frustration threatens to boil over among ambulance crews, who want to bring the dispute to a head to force Mr Clarke's hand.

Although some strikers were said last night to be taking 999 calls again after walking out on Thursday, there were signs that union leaders are worried they may lose control of the national dispute. Anger increased as Mr Clarke underlined his deter-

mination not to pay the 9 per cent demanded by the 22,500 ambulance crews and controllers.

He said it was a mistake for crews and Mr Roger Poole, chief union negotiator, to believe they could improve the National Health Service offer of 6.5 per cent to 9 per cent plus the guarantee of an annual wage review system.

Mr Clarke said: "If we gave the ambulance men what they want, it will have a damaging effect on the pay bill and on the service to patients. Roger Poole represents 150,000 ancillary workers. If they see ambulance men getting what they want by industrial action, I shall have a pay explosion." As he spoke, the five unions involved in the dispute said the number of

health authorities calling in the police and Army to cover for the ambulance service had risen in just 48 hours from 14 to 21 with 150 police vans and Army ambulances on the streets.

The National Union of Public Employees claimed that the weekly

Industrial sense 10

cost in South Yorkshire alone was now £322,000 - £251,000 more than the normal ambulance wages bill.

Mr Robin Cook, Shadow health spokesman, said: "Kenneth Clarke has spent more money on hiring the police and the Army to do the job of ambulance staff than it would have cost to settle with the ambulance staff in the first place." Nupe

meanwhile has said that more than 60 crews in West Sussex stations that went on strike on Thursday would respond to emergencies only from personal callers.

An elderly woman who collapsed in the street at Hove, East Sussex, with a heart attack, was dead when she reached hospital in a police van. It was one of 10 emergency calls answered by Sussex police vehicles in the first 24 hours after ambulance men in East Sussex escalated their action by refusing to take 999 calls put through by management.

Meanwhile 103 crew members in Oxford lost their court fight yesterday to set up an alternative emergency service when a High Court judge continued a ban on them using vehicles and equipment

belonging to Oxfordshire Health Authority.

On Wednesday, Mr Justice Judge granted the authority a temporary injunction after ambulance service chiefs learned that striking crews would not be willing to accept calls from management and were planning an alternative service.

Two police officers were praised for their skill yesterday after saving a woman aged 23 who "died" five times on the way to hospital in their makeshift ambulance.

The woman, an epileptic, collapsed at her home in Westham, Kent, and had stopped breathing. Constables Tony Parren and Mark Hinchcliffe gave her the kiss of life and massaged her heart. Last night she was recovering in hospital.

Seven shot in gun battle after raid on Irish bank

Two bank raiders were critically injured last night after a gun battle with detectives and another of the gang was injured after a raid on the Bank of Ireland branch in Athy, Co Kildare.

They were last night under police guard in hospital and the two remaining members of the gang were under arrest.

Two bank staff were also injured, one of them seriously, and a policeman's arm was grazed by a bullet and a passer-by was also hurt. At least 25 shots were fired.

Five guns and an undisclosed amount of cash were recovered.

The drama began shortly after noon when the gang drove up to the bank in a stolen BMW. The driver stayed in the car and his four accomplices went into the bank and began loading cash into bags.

As two of them were leaving they were confronted by armed police. One of the raiders opened fire on the police and a gun battle ensued.

The two other raiders held 16 staff in the bank hostage and armed detectives surrounded the building. They crouched behind cars with revolvers and machine guns trained on the building in

Emily Square. The 100-minute siege ended when Father Patrick Mangan, a local priest, convinced the gunmen to throw out their weapons and surrender.

He said later: "I was just glad when it was all over." Police said: "For a time there was confusion when it appeared that two raiders had died, but they are in hospital with gunshot wounds."

During the siege the area was sealed off and people were warned not to leave their homes.

An eye-witness, Mr Michael Winkie, a newspaper in the square opposite the bank said: "There was a lot of shooting. It was very confusing with police running everywhere and cars roaring up and down."

He said he saw two men lying outside the bank on the pavement: "They appeared to be badly injured."

Miss Andrea Mulhall watched the drama from an upstairs window of her nearby home. She said: "Numerous shots were fired. Then I saw a person being taken off in an ambulance. There were plainclothes detectives crouched behind cars with guns directed towards the bank. It was very frightening."

Soft landing for injured skier

MARC ASPLAND



Dr Faigl Burghard carrying Matthew Anderson, aged six, of Macclesfield, Cheshire, from the De Havilland ambulance aircraft for skiers after its first flight to Luton Airport yesterday.

Matthew, who has a broken leg and is expected to spend two weeks in hospital, was one of six patients flown home from Innsbruck, Austria. He said: "We have had brilliant service on the flight. I couldn't have asked for more."

The De Havilland Canada Dash 8, run by Tyrolair Airways, arrived with a red flashing landing light rather than the traditional blue one. The airline intends to run the flight twice a

week throughout the skiing season to bring injured tourists to Luton, Bedfordshire.

Up to 10 patients can be carried on each flight and they are looked after by six specialized doctors and nurses.

The injured skiing party included William Evans, aged eight, from the Wirral, Cheshire, who broke his leg on the first day of his holiday on New Year's Eve; Mr David Kinchen, from Worcester, who broke his ankle; and Mr Andrew Smith, a civil servant aged 23, from Brands Hatch, Kent, who has torn ligaments in his leg.

Recession fears grow as truck and bus jobs go

By Kevin Eason

Fears of a recession in the truck and bus manufacturing industry grew yesterday as hundreds of workers faced redundancy and short-time working.

Leyland Bus is paying off 380 workers at its Farington plant in Lancashire, while AWD, the Dunstable truck company, is asking workers over the age of 50 to volunteer to leave.

Leyland said it had to improve its cost competitiveness in the rapidly changing bus market.

The two biggest British manufacturers of trucks, Leyland DAF and Iveco Ford, have started short-time working at their main plants.

The sudden decline of the heavy vehicle industry underlines the rapid loss of confidence in industry as a result of the Government's high interest rates policy.

Manufacturers say customers have cut back on investment and this is reflected in reduced orders.

The industry expects last year's record sales of 70,000 trucks of over 3.5 tonnes to fall to 60,000 this year.

Thousands of workers are preparing wildcat walkouts from Ford's biggest manufacturing plants on Wednesday to try to force the company to raise its 10.2 per cent wage offer.

Despite union assurances that there would be no action during negotiations, workers look set to walk out on unofficial strikes on the very day talks are due.

The most damaging walk-out could be among 4,000 workers in the paint, trim and assembly shop at Ford's biggest plant in Dagenham, Essex, which makes the best-selling Ford Fiesta and Sierra cars. Their action could cost Ford lost output worth £15 million.

The Dagenham walkout is likely to be backed by 1,500 men at the huge Bridgend engine plant in South Wales.

Meanwhile, 400 craftsmen at the traditionally hardline plant at Halewood, on Merseyside, are expected to meet today to discuss starting an indefinite strike from Monday morning while there are meetings in many of the Ford's other plants early next week.

Ford said last night: "We would be very disappointed by any unofficial action. It is very important that our plants keep running."

Irish castle is raided by art thieves

By Edward Gorman and Sarah Jane Checkland

Irish police last night hunting a gang of art thieves which stole five paintings estimated to be worth a total of £1 million from a castle in Co Meath.

They included three works said to be by Van Dyck, though experts believed last night that they might be "school of Van Dyck" and thus worth considerably less than the master's work.

The theft, the latest in a series in the Republic, is thought to have taken place early yesterday morning.

The thieves removed iron bars from a ground-floor window of Dunsany Castle, near Trim.

The stolen paintings were hanging in the hall and dining room of the 13th-century castle.

There were no alarm sys-

tems and the thieves, who also stole silverware and ransacked the castle library, did not disturb people asleep upstairs.

The missing "Van Dyck" portraits were of Charles I, his wife Henrietta Maria, and a second woman.

Two other paintings by Jack B. Yeats, brother of the poet

A group of 16th-century Italian drawings, bought by the British Rail Pension Fund for an undisclosed sum in the 1970s, was sold to a French investment company for \$2.53 million (£1.5 million) at Sotheby's New York on Thursday night (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

The buyer was M Bruno de Bayser, the Parisian dealer, bidding on behalf of the investment advisory service Finscore Art.

Sotheby's device of offering the group of 20 drawings by the Mannerist painter Feder-

ico Zuccaro and telling the life of his brother Zaccaro, initially as a single lot, paid off when the price crept over its \$2.5 million estimate.

The drawings were the highlight in a group of around 60 by the Mannerist artist sold by the fund for a total of \$4.5 million (£2.73 million).

There was disappointment earlier in the day, however, when an important landscape by Claude Lorraine went unsold at £1.2 million.

W B Yeats, were stolen. Mr Edward Plunkett, son of Lord Dunsany, said three of the frames - two of them from the "Van Dyck" paintings - were found in woodlands near the castle.

Mr Plunkett, who lives in New York and was visiting his family home, indicated that

alarm systems would now be fitted at the castle. There have been many art thefts from Irish mansions after the theft in May 1986 of 17 paintings from Russborough House, Co Wicklow, the home of the South African diamond magnate Sir Alfred Beit.

A few of the paintings were quickly found by boys in a ditch near the house but the others - including important works by Vermeer and Goya - have not been seen since.

Mr Plunkett said of this week's raid on Dunsany Castle that he believed police estimates of £1 million as the value of the paintings might be too high.

The record for a Yeats work has recently soared to £247,787 at auction.

One of the two missing paintings, "In Memory" could well be worth more than that, as it is considered one of the artist's best works.

SALEROOM

'Friendly teachers preferred to high exam marks'

Children choose own schools, report says

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Government efforts to increase parent power may be misplaced, according to a study showing that children, rather than their parents, often play the dominant role in choosing the schools they attend.

Ministers have set great store by increased parental choice of schools, but according to researchers at Sheffield Polytechnic's Department of Education, "the vast majority" of children end up at the school of their own choice.

Perhaps as a result of this influence, the academics found that parents were more

likely to opt for schools which were friendly than those which had high academic standards.

The study, by Mrs Pam Boulton and Mr John Coldron, found that although discipline was important to parents, the majority did not want strict rules severely enforced.

Parents questioned at eight primary schools said they preferred schools that had an orderly community with mutual respect between staff and children.

Although children often had the final say, mothers played the dominant role in choosing

schools. Fathers were often content to leave matters to their wives.

The report said: "Warm, friendly teachers who will have a child's future happiness at heart, who understand and deal sympathetically with their worries and anxieties were more important than academic concerns."

"Half the parents interviewed discussed the decision with their children."

"Some parents entirely deferred to their child's wishes. For the majority of parents interviewed the desire to avoid confrontation was a

consideration and the vast majority of children went to their preferred school."

Hundreds of students at Birmingham Polytechnic walked out of lectures yesterday in support of two academics who are facing pay cuts and possible dismissal over their refusal to mark exams as part of industrial action organized by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (Sam Kiley writes).

Student leaders said at least 450 students boycotted morning lectures after the staff were told that their pay would be

cut by 20 per cent when they refused to invigilate an exam.

Dr Peter Wright, director of the polytechnic, said that the boycott had "no effect whatever on the running of the college."

The student union is organizing a one-hour strike and demonstration with Nattie in protest at the hard line taken by Dr Wright.

Last month the union rejected a pay offer of 6 per cent from April to September 1989 with a commitment to enter negotiations for a higher settlement to cover subsequent months.

Speelman back from the brink

By Raymond Keene Chess Correspondent

Jon Speelman, Britain's world championship semi-finalist, achieved a near-miraculous escape from disaster in his unfinished 12th-round game in the Foreign and Colonial Grandmaster chess tournament at Hastings, East Sussex.

His opponent, Kevin Spraggett (Canada), had pushed Speelman into a desperate situation: a knight ahead with a fierce attack. Spraggett on move 38 could have sacrificed his queen to force checkmate in five moves. This would have been a finish so outstanding that it would have gone round the world.

Instead, desperately short of time to fulfil his complement of 40 moves in the first session, Spraggett panicked, made an incorrect capture and threw away his chance. After seven hours and 61 moves Spraggett offered a draw which Speelman accepted.

Pairings in the penultimate round: Artur Yusupov (USSR) first, against Murray Chandler (England) in a queen's pawn opening; Predrag Nikolic (Yugoslavia) white, against Speelman in a queen's gambit opening; Sergey Dolmatov (USSR), tournament leader, white, against Michael Adams (England) in a Caro Kann defence; Spraggett white, in an English opening against Boris Gulko (US).

Chaos as Tories try to bar protesters

By Kerry Gill

A press conference by poll tax protesters at Lothian Regional Council chambers in Edinburgh started in chaos yesterday as Conservative councillors tried to deny them use of the building.

The event was designed to launch a campaign of support for 17 people due to appear in court on charges of breaching the peace at a sheriff officers' firm.

However, Tory councillors, angry that the building was being used by people refusing to pay for council services, occupied the room set aside for them. The eight members of the Lothian Federation of

show their support. The meeting, however, soon degenerated into an exchange of views between Mr Clachers and Mr Brian Meek, the Tory group leader.

Later, Mr Meek said several council meetings had been disrupted by anti-poll tax protesters. "I decided it was time for the worm to hit back."

Ministers and whips have embarked on a damage limitation exercise in an effort to survive next Thursday's poll tax revolt by Conservative backbenchers (Sheila Gunn writes).

Mr David Hunt, the local government minister, has written to all 288 Tory backbenchers, saying that local authorities do not need to impose a community charge over the average forecast figure of around £278 per person.

He will be backed up by personal pleas to individual MPs from Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, to support the central government grants to local authorities totalling £23.1 billion for next year. Only a handful of Tory MPs are expected to vote against the local authority grants after Thursday's debate. The real threat comes from the number of abstentions.

Russia's imperial clan gathers for a ball

By Alan Hamilton

President Gorbachev need have no immediate worries about the rival Moscow power canons which gathered in the Cafe Royal in London last night. Grand Duke Vladimir, heir to the Romanov throne and would-be Tsar of All the Russias, was doing nothing more threatening than lending his name to a church fabric appeal fund.

Russian aristocracy can still summon its cream in a good cause. The grand duke and his wife Grand Duchess Leonida, scion of the Georgian royal family Bagration, presided over an assembly which included the Prince and Princess Galitzine, Prince

and Princess Obolensky, Prince and Princess Masovs, and nearly 350 other adherents to the imperial court, who had travelled from all over Western Europe to attend.

The War and Peace Ball, now in its second year, was chaired by Count Nikolai Tolstoy-Miloslavsky, but proceeds from last night's function were not in aid of the recent record £1.5 million libel award against the Count by the High Court. The Russians want to build a new church.

Mrs Carolyn Cripps, secretary of the Ball committee, said yesterday the event was intended to raise £10,000 towards the initial £500,000 needed to build a new Russian Orthodox Church

in London. The lease on the present church is ending and developers plan to turn it into an upmarket studio housing.

Orthodox adherents are negotiating for a plot of land in Chiswick, where they hope to build a new church in the traditional Novgorod style, complete with onion domes.

Grand Duke Vladimir, who lives in Paris, Nice and Madrid, is widely accepted as the legitimate heir to the imperial Russian throne. He is the son of Grand Duke Kiril, a cousin of Tsar Nicholas II, the last reigning Romanov, who was murdered by the Bolsheviks at Ekaterinburg in 1918. He is a cousin of the British Royal

Family through his mother, Grand Duchess Victoria, the daughter of Queen Victoria's second son Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh.

The grand duke, who addressed a meeting of the right-wing Monday Club on Thursday, attended a similar ball in London last year, when guests celebrated the millennium of Russian Orthodox Christianity.

Last night the grand duke and his wife presided over a reception, dinner and ball at which the entertainments included Cossack dancing, the orchestra of the Coldstream Guards and vodka. The only historically jarring note was that the dinner was held in the Cafe Royal's Napoleon Room.

Hong Kong-Peking talks

Governor fails to dispel gloom

From Andrew McEwen, Hong Kong, and Heidi Chay, Peking

Sir David Wilson, the Governor of Hong Kong, flew back to the colony from his talks in Peking last night to face deep pessimism among groups campaigning for greater democracy during the final seven years of British rule.

Sir David will brief Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, who arrives here today for a four-day visit, on the Chinese reaction to demands for more democracy. Demonstrations calling on Britain to increase the number of directly elected representatives for the last two polls under British rule, in 1991 and 1995, are planned for tomorrow.

Mr Hurd has, however, made it clear that his priority is continuity, so that constitutional changes made by London are not reversed as soon as Peking takes over. The Governor is understood to have met a tough response when he urged officials in Peking to take a more relaxed view of Hong Kong's wish for a greater proportion of its legislators to be directly elected. He did not indicate how the problem might be resolved. "At this stage, I think we have to wait and see what comes out of the (Basic Law) drafting process," he said. Basic Law, described as a post-1997 mini-constitution, is to undergo final revision in Canton next week.

Sir David said his talks had increased understanding on sensitive political issues but produced few solutions. "I can't say we've solved every problem, but I do think it has been possible to increase understanding and get back to resuming the sort of practical dialogue we need," Sir David said shortly before his return.

He had, however, assured China's leaders that Hong Kong would not be used as a base to subvert their country. "We don't want people from outside Hong Kong to come and use it (the colony) as a battlefield against China."

Talks covered economic issues such as developing Hong Kong's infrastructure, political issues and the incomplete Basic Law. Sir David said China also gave assurances of co-operation on the problem of Vietnamese boat people.

Sir David said he had defended Britain's decision last month to grant passports to 50,000 Hong Kong families, as well as Hong Kong's plan to adopt a Bill of Rights in face of strong Chinese opposition.

Signs of tension during the visit were plentiful. Reports from the official New China news agency described the talks as "candid" and "frank", diplomatic words that often indicate open disagreement. Mr Li Hou, of China's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, told reporters there were "still storm clouds" in bilateral relations.

Mr Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, said he was "glad to see that on some issues the two sides are drawing together" and called for closer co-operation in the economic development of Hong Kong and the mainland.

The Joint Committee on the Promotion of Democratic Government, a Hong Kong pressure group, yesterday called on the colony's 5.7 million people to assemble in a central square tomorrow afternoon. But Mr Yeung Sum, one of the organizers, was uncertain how many would go, because of scepticism over Britain's willingness to stand up to China.

"People are very pessimistic," he said. "They see that Britain is waiting to see what China wants before it announces its policy."

He and other leaders of the group have been granted a five-minute meeting with Mr Hurd on Monday where they will call for half the Legislative Council members to be directly elected in 1991 and all of them in 1995. None of the present members was directly elected.

The mood in the colony is much quieter than when Sir Geoffrey Howe, then the Foreign Secretary, visited soon after the Tiananmen Square massacre last June. Sir Geoffrey encountered unprecedented demonstrations, and local officials walked out of a luncheon after his keynote speech.

Every effort is being made to ensure there is no repetition when Mr Hurd speaks to the General Chamber of Commerce on Monday: 600 invitations have gone out, but none to local politicians who are not also in business.

One of those excluded is Mr Lee Wing-tat, chairman of the Kwai Tsing District Board, who harangued Sir Geoffrey during his luncheon.

Like Mr Yeung Sum, he felt many people would stay away from the demonstration because of disillusionment. "If Hong Kong people have the feeling that the UK will not confront China, they will say: 'Why bother?'" he said.

But Mr Hurd's approach was praised by Brigadier Ian Christie, director of the chamber of commerce. "We have got to come up with something (on democracy) that is in keeping with the spirit of the (Sino-British) Joint Declaration and provides a reasonable degree of democratic representation while being acceptable to all parties," he said.

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Japan's imperial betrothal

Fiancée to be schooled in courtly etiquette

From Joe Joseph Tokyo

The romance of Miss Kiko Kawashima, a chirpy post-graduate commoner, with Japan's Prince Aya was yesterday entrusted to antique imperial courtiers charged with turning her into a textbook Japanese princess.

Prince Aya, 24 years old and second in line to the throne, sealed the engagement yesterday by sending *sake* rice wine, a pair of sea bream and bolts of silk to the modest Tokyo home of his university sweetheart, the first time this formal imperial ceremony has been held in a humdrum, concrete apartment complex.

He flies back to his zoology books at Oxford tomorrow, but by the time he returns for the wedding in June Miss Kawashima, the 23-year-old daughter of a university don, will be an expert on Japanese court ceremonies, royal etiquette, Japanese history and the Constitution.

She will learn to write 31-syllable *waka* poems, the medieval precursor of the snappier 17-syllable *haiku* and a form now only used by members of the imperial family for presentation to the Emperor at New Year.

Miss Kawashima will also study the imperial system and religious rites that give Japan's monarch his divinity, a belief that has quietly ousted General MacArthur's efforts to, as he called it, "de-god" Emperor Hirohito after the Americans arrived to occupy and rule Japan at the end of the Second World War.



Miss Kawashima, dressed in pink kimono and elaborate gold sash, arriving at the Imperial Palace yesterday for the formal exchange of gifts to mark her betrothal to Prince Aya, right.



Pretoria plans more cuts to defence budget

From Ray Kennedy Johannesburg

Substantial cuts in military spending in South Africa are expected to be announced soon, as part of President de Klerk's policy of demilitarizing the country.

Last month the national service of young whites was cut from two years to one year. Pretoria sources said yesterday this was only the start.

A South African Defence Force spokesman confirmed

that the building of a new 250 million rand (£60 million) headquarters in Pretoria has been postponed indefinitely. Further cuts are expected to lead to a 25 per cent cut in the military budget, which under Mr de Klerk's predecessor, Mr P.W. Botha, increased from 4.3 billion rand in 1985-1986 to 10 billion rand in this financial year.

The 10-year-old Marine Corps is also expected to be disbanded and several ships of

the Navy put into mothballs. Some sources predict that naval personnel will be cut by 40 per cent.

Air Force units along the coast may also be trimmed, and another project that could be axed is the development by Armscor, the parastatal arms manufacturer, of a super battle tank. The Women's Army College at George in the Cape Province may also be closed.

Mr Bob Rogers, defence spokesman for the opposition

Democratic Party, said yesterday the country's defence commitment had been significantly reduced with the withdrawal of troops from Namibia. There were heavy demands for housing, education facilities, medical care and job creation, he said.

● Natal deaths: Ten children were among 13 people burnt to death in feuding between black gangs vying for control of townships in Natal province (Reuters reports). Police

said yesterday that six boys, four girls and three women were killed when a mob set fire to two houses in the Cottonlands township, near Durban in Natal. Two people were arrested.

The many townships spread over the lush Natal hills have been torn by continuous fighting between members of the Zulu-based Inkatha movement and supporters of the United Democratic Front anti-apartheid coalition.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Flaw discovered in Noriega case

New York — A potentially serious flaw emerged yesterday in the case against General Manuel Noriega as the Justice Department in Washington was reported to be sending a team to take over from Mr Dexter Lehtinen, the gun-carrying Miami chief prosecutor (Charles Bremner writes). Experts have begun questioning the legality of bringing the former Panamanian dictator to trial in the United States. A legal equivalent, said one, would be Iran seizing Salman Rushdie in Britain and putting him on trial in Tehran. The hole in the Miami case stemmed from conflicting evidence given in the separate prosecution of General Noriega involving marijuana smuggling in the Florida city of Tampa. That could give General Noriega's lawyers a significant weapon to impeach the credibility of Senior José Blandon, the main government witness in Miami.

UN's Cambodia role

Peking — China and the Soviet Union agree that the United Nations should play a substantial role in settling the 11-year-old Cambodian conflict, a senior Soviet official said yesterday (Heidi Chay writes). Mr Igor Rogachev, the Deputy Foreign Minister, said at the end of a four-day visit to Peking: "We in general are of the same opinion with our Chinese colleagues that the UN should play a very major role in the process of a settlement." The Soviet Union earlier supported an Australian-sponsored plan to set up a UN trusteeship in Cambodia until free elections can be held. China hesitated, saying it still advocated a quadripartite government under Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Nazi-hunter 'expelled'

Paris — The French lawyer and Nazi-hunter, M Serge Klarsfeld, who tracked down Klaus Barbie, has apparently been expelled from Syria while on the trail of the wanted war criminal Alois Brunner (Philip Jacobson writes). According to his wife in Paris yesterday, M Klarsfeld was detained by police as he was preparing to make a public statement accusing Syria of sheltering Brunner, a former SS commander held responsible for the death of thousands of Jews. She said repeated attempts to contact her husband at his Damascus hotel had failed, and a contact in the Syrian capital had been told by the police that M Klarsfeld had left the country. The lawyer went to Damascus this week to ask President Assad to extradite Brunner as a goodwill gesture.

Kabul move attacked

Karachi — Pakistan has joined the United States in opposing the French Government's surprise move to reopen its embassy in Kabul (Zahid Hussain writes). France, along with other Western countries and the US, closed down its diplomatic mission in Kabul as the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was completed in February last year. That decision was apparently taken in expectation of the imminent fall of the Soviet-backed Government in Kabul headed by President Najibullah. Western diplomats say the new French decision is premature and may strengthen Kabul's diplomatic position at a stage when it is struggling to maintain its survival. Some feel it may encourage other Western European countries to consider sending diplomatic representatives back to Kabul — a further setback to Mujahidin resistance in Afghanistan.

Pisa wins support

Rome — The usually divided Italian Parliament yesterday gave almost complete support to the leaning tower of Pisa (Janet Stobart writes). It approved a proposal to fund a three-year restoration and consolidation programme costing 100 billion lire (£50 million). An 11-man commission will be set up to study proposals for propping up the tower, which was closed on January 7 after heated debate between the Italian Arts Ministry and Pisa city council as to whether its collapse was imminent.

Discord in Israel

Furore over Wagner revived

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Not since Zubin Mehta was booted off the podium in Tel Aviv eight years ago for trying to conduct music by Wagner has there been such a fuss about the relationship between the German composer's music and anti-Semitism.

The controversy re-emerged yesterday when Richard Wagner's great-grandson, Gottfried, told a conference at Tel Aviv University that the composer's music could not be described as anti-Semitic, even if some of his writings occasionally were. "I believe in the unity of German Jewish culture," Herr Wagner declared to an alternately sceptical and outraged audience.

The Israeli ban on the Ring

cycle, *The Flying Dutchman* and other masterpieces stems partly from Wagner's explicit racial views. But it mainly springs from the fact that, long after his death, Hitler used Wagner's dark and majestic Teutonic motifs as musical accompaniment to the Nazi ideology of the master race.

Wagner's music is banned from Israeli radio and may not be played in concert halls. "Why should we revive terrible memories of the Holocaust?" one Israeli musician said yesterday.

But Herr Wagner, aged 42, who was born in Bayreuth, the home of Wagnerian opera, challenged the Israeli view in a controversial lecture entitled:

"Great-grandfather Wagner as I see him." He recalled that, as a boy, he had often been subject to the taunt of "Nazi pig" because of his ancestry.

But he had been shocked to the core to discover at the age of nine that the reason was that Wagner's music had been used for Nazi propaganda purposes. He was "truly ashamed" of any anti-Semitism expressed in Wagner's writings, he said, but there was no case for suggesting that the spirit of anti-Semitism had entered his music.

"What about Wagner's call for an end to the existence of the Jewish people?" somebody in the audience shouted. Herr Wagner replied that

everybody made contradictory statements, and he could provide quotations from his great-grandfather that proved he also believed the opposite.

Despite the prospect of Israeli ties with a democratised East Germany as well as with West Germany, many Israelis still found it difficult to accept that Wagner's music, with all its emotive power, could be separated from its Nazi associations. Until the recent revolution, Romania had also banned Wagner as "fascist", but since Ceausescu's overthrow Wagner's music can be played freely.

Judging by yesterday's furore, no such reversal can be expected yet in Israel.

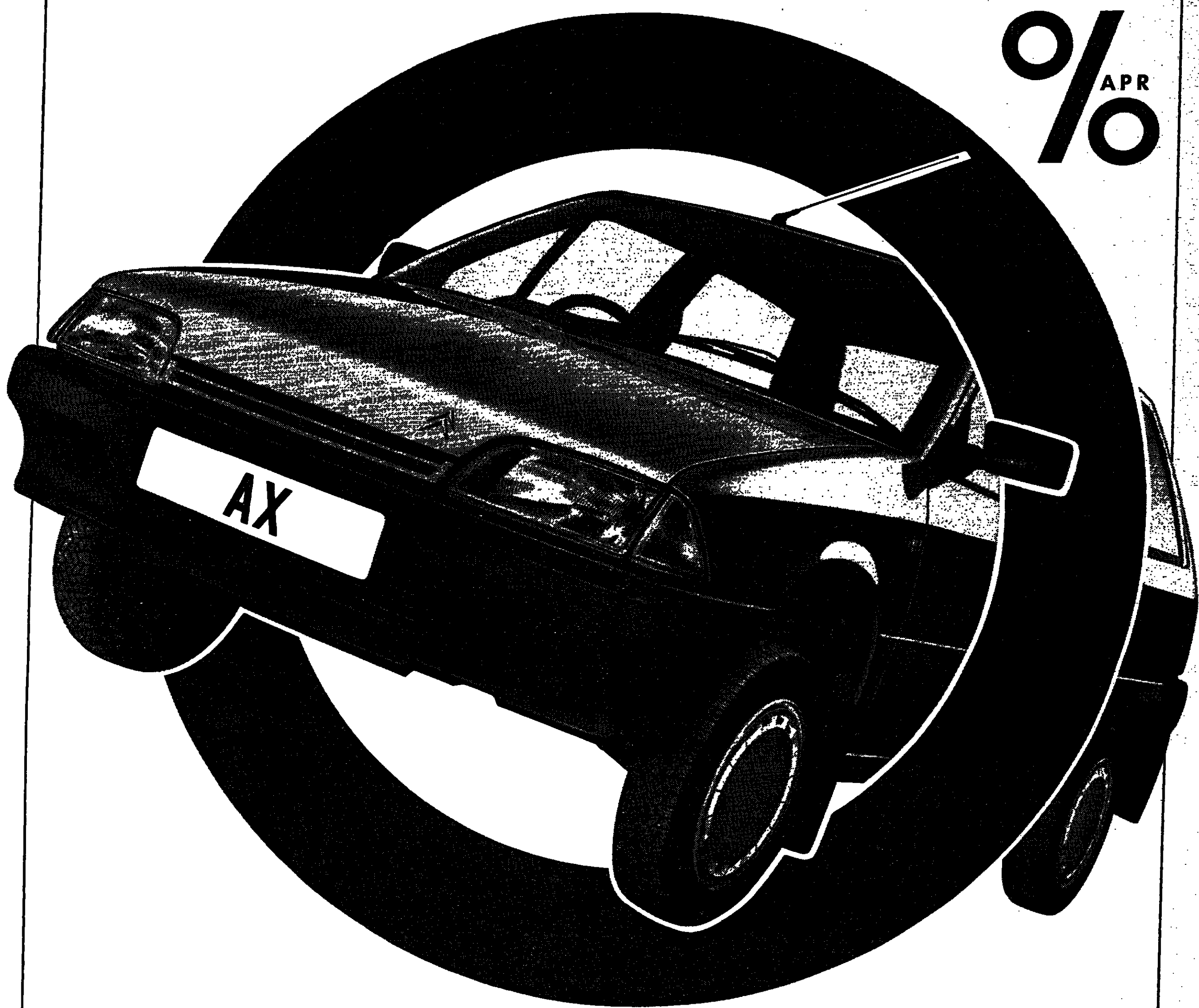
Peres threatens to break up the coalition

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader and Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, threatened yesterday to pull Labour out of its coalition with the Likud party unless the deadlock over the present US-sponsored peace process was broken.

Mr Peres made the announcement after reports that the Israeli Foreign Ministry was drawing up a contingency plan for Israel to withdraw

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THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Meat queues in Bucharest enjoy spoils of uprising

From John Holland, Bucharest

"There is meat again in Bucharest," exclaimed the grinning, bloodstained butcher, his soiled white smock providing visible proof that the long wait of frustrated queuers has temporarily ended, at least in the capital if not in the ill-supplied provinces.

January, normally the most desperate of times for those in search of what passed for sustenance during the Ceausescu era, has been transformed into a longer-than-foreseen extension of Christmas, when meat and fresh vegetables and fruit suddenly began to appear out of nowhere — or, more specifically, out of Romania's bulging export warehouses.

In a country where queues were rare because there was nothing to queue for, enthusiastic people were willing to

stand in freezing weather for hours in order to buy meat. Only queues for copies of newspapers reporting the latest uncovered excesses of the former dictator are nearly as long, perhaps proving that the alien concept of democracy mixed with outrage still fuels hope as efficiently as a few well-stocked stores.

Four tons of pig carcasses were unloaded yesterday in the city's Anzei Square, the city's largest fresh meat outlet, and people in a queue which zigzagged several hundred yards watched in near-disbelief and not a small amount of understandable impatience.

"Hurry up and make up your minds," shouted one man up to the front of the long queue. "I have been waiting four years for this day."

Despite the moderate improvement in meat and dairy supplies, malnutrition is still a problem for much of the

population. However, scepticism persists that the food supply will remain adequate throughout the year. There are also doubts about the ruling Council of National Salvation and the promise of free elections by this summer.

"We are hoping to dig up more private stocks accumulated by those greedy Communists," said one shivering man in the queue, whom a nearby listener identified as a "Communist only recently acquainted with the practice of standing in line for food".

Raiding the warehouses will not be enough, however. Agricultural production has been crippled, while its managers routinely inflated their output figures several times over to keep pace with Ceausescu's wildly unrealistic growth plans. The country's new Agriculture Minister has already served warning that meat supplies are sufficient to feed only about two-thirds of the population this year. The inefficiency of collectivized farming must be replaced with a free market system and private farming, he said.

On Galati Street, in a once fashionable district of central Bucharest, shelves on an open-air market were bare except for a few shrivelled apples and scrawny-looking beetroot. Unpasteurized milk was by far the most abundant usable commodity available.

Picking her way around tanks parked across the street from the stalls, Mrs Hana Menarescu described the situation as only "marginally better. We are used to seeing nothing edible here," she said explaining that suppliers used to sell everything of value on the black market which only the Communists could afford.

Mrs Anka Radescu, a mother of two queuing at the Anzei Square store, said she believes it is a temporary break in the misery — the spoils of revolution, as she put it — not the first glimmerings of a new agricultural policy.

"We wait all day because finally there is something to wait for. I do not expect that I will see this much meat again in my life after this spring."

Thatcher and Kaifu discuss reforms boost

CHRIS HARRIS

By Michael Knipe, Diplomatic Correspondent



In step: Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kaifu together on the pavement outside 10 Downing Street as they greet the press yesterday. The two were in accord on the issue of returning boat people.

International issues rather than bilateral ones dominated Mrs Margaret Thatcher's discussions at Downing Street yesterday with Mr Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese Prime Minister.

Both leaders agreed on the need to support political and economic reforms in Eastern Europe.

"We discussed how best we can help the East European countries to go from being centrally controlled communist states to a market economy," said Mrs Thatcher when she and Mr Kaifu made brief informal statements outside 10 Downing Street at the end of their meeting.

Their talks also covered relations with China, Hong Kong's future and the problem of Vietnam refugees, environmental problems and aid to the Third World.

The primary focus of the discussions on international issues reflected Japan's importance as a world political and economic power. One purpose of Mr Kaifu's European tour, which today takes him to Rome, has been to underline Tokyo's acceptance of this role.

The \$1.8 billion (£1.09 billion) aid programme for Poland and Hungary, which Mr Kaifu announced in the keynote speech of his tour in Berlin this week, is regarded in Whitehall as a handsome sum that signifies Tokyo's serious intention to underpin the new order emerging from the Cold War.

On relations with China the two leaders agreed, said officials, that it was best not to isolate the Peking authorities but to encourage policies of reform and openness. Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kaifu agreed

on the importance of bolstering confidence in Hong Kong's future. In response to a British request, the Japanese said they would open direct talks with the Hong Kong Government to conclude an aviation agreement similar to ones existing between Hong Kong and Switzerland, The Netherlands, Canada and Brunei.

In talks with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Taro Nakayama — his Japanese counterpart — said that having seen the situation in Hong Kong for himself he understood the reason for Britain's forced repatriation policy towards refugees from Vietnam.

Apparently in response to several hundred telephone calls asking the Prime Minister to raise the subject of Japanese whaling with Mr Kaifu, Mrs Thatcher did so as they ended an hour of talks and went to lunch. The Japanese leader said that Japan's policy on whaling was conducted in accordance with the rules of the International Whaling Commission. Different countries had different views on whaling, depending on their varying historical background, he said, and he hoped differences on the matter could be ironed out through rational discussion.

Earlier, 150 British members of Parliament signed a petition condemning Mr Kaifu for allowing Japanese fishing boats to continue hunting whales.

They wrote: "We cannot believe that the cessation of whaling would inflict disproportionate damage either to the Japanese fishing industry or the incredibly strong Japanese economy."

EC may fund opposition in Eastern bloc

From Peter Guilford, Brussels

Euro-MPs from the conservative and Christian Democratic parties are pushing for the European Parliament to finance opposition groups in Eastern Europe when they fight elections promised in the spring.

The urgent call for a European Democracy Fund is in direct response to fears that Eastern European governments still influenced by the old guard may win elections by starving their opponents of money, campaign facilities and access to the media.

The European Democrats and the European People's Party tabled the emergency resolution in Berlin this week and are confident it will be voted through by the full Parliament in Strasbourg on Thursday. An estimated £15 million would be carved

up by the European Parliament, according to the draft resolution. It would then be shared out among Eastern European parties whose political persuasions matched those of the Strasbourg groupings.

This is expected to win the support of the Euro-Socialists, whose near majority in the Strasbourg parliament would give them the right to spend the lion's share of the fund on like-minded parties in Eastern countries.

However, informed sources say the proponents will try to quash any attempt by the European far right to fund extreme right-wing groups in East Germany. Mr Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the French National Front, and Herr Franz Schönhuber of the German Republicans, would vigorously attack such a move.

The proposed fund will draw fire

from the Eastern bloc, notably the East German Government, which has tightened its grip on the media and is threatening to bar campaign funds from abroad. In an attempt to parry criticism of political interference, a spokesman said the money would pay for office materials and publicity without influencing party policies.

The exact size of the fund has yet to be settled. Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, Conservative MEP for York, claims £15 million of EC money could be drawn from the EC's budget for 1990 with the backing of national governments and the EC.

"Billions of ECUs are being poured into Eastern European countries, but not a penny is going towards helping democracy become established," he told the German press in Berlin.

PARIS: Representatives of West-

ern banks and other creditors of the Polish Government met here yesterday to seek a common position on the country's \$40 billion (£24 billion) debt, officials said (Reuter reports).

Poland was not taking part. However, the meeting is expected to set a date for full-scale negotiations with the creditors by the end of this month to reschedule the debt.

The meeting was chaired by M Jean-Claude Trichet, head of the Paris Club, which groups government creditors — the first formal meeting between commercial bank representatives and the Paris Club.

Poland's bank creditors met Polish government representatives in Vienna this week and were expected to report on the outcome of those talks at the Paris meeting. Poland owes £9 billion to Western banks.

Beheading reduces Saudi drug traffic

Nicosia (Reuter) — Cases of drug trafficking in Saudi Arabia have dropped by half since the kingdom decided to behead offenders, a Saudi Interior Ministry official said yesterday.

The kingdom reported 99 public beheadings last year, many of them for drug trafficking.

General Ibrahim al-Meiman, in charge of the ministry's campaign against drugs, said he expected the percentage to drop further as a result of the 1987 decision to execute offenders.

"The phenomenon of drug trafficking in the kingdom has been cut nearly 50 per cent... due to the imposition of the death penalty against traffickers," the Saudi Press Agency quoted him as saying.

Tanker hope

Madrid (Reuter) — The pumping of over 200,000 tons of crude from the hold of the disabled Iranian tanker Kharg 5 off Morocco's north-west coast will begin on Tuesday if all goes well, a spokesman for the Spanish Merchant Marine said here yesterday.

Smog ban

Milan (Reuter) — Milan has banned lorries from the city for four days starting today because it has been blanketed in smog.

Rebels blamed

Managua (Reuter) — An official investigation has concluded that US-backed Contra rebels were responsible for a New Year's Day ambush which killed two nuns, one an American, the Nicaraguan Government said.

Pray for rain

Cagliari (Reuter) — Roman Catholics on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia were asked by their Archbishop yesterday to pray for rain after three years of drought.

Author dies

Cairo (Reuter) — Ismail Abdel-Quddous, a leading Egyptian novelist and journalist jailed under the country's last monarch, King Farouk, and President Nasser, its revolutionary leader, has died aged 70.

Last trip

Wellington (Reuter) — Mr Albin Birch left London on the trip of a lifetime to find a New Zealand cousin, Bennet Birch, a recluse whom he had not seen for 30 years — but discovered him dead when he arrived at his home in the remote settlement of Takhe.

January 12 1990 PARLIAMENT

MPs united in attack on Government policy for clothing and textiles trade

MPs on both sides united in severe criticism of the Government's approach to the future of the British textile industry in the light of the forthcoming ending of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), the international agreement regulating the trade.

Mr John Redwood, Under Secretary of State for Corporate Affairs, who opened the debate, found himself without a friend during the five hours of discussion. He was told that ministers would ignore the views of MPs on this as their post.

There was stern advice that the industry was at risk and that any arrangement that was devised to replace the MFA must be at least as strong in protecting British jobs. Mr Archie Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire, Lib Dem) said that the industry was bleeding to a slow and lingering death.

Mr Redwood began by saying that the textile industry employed 480,000 people — 2 per cent of total employment. Exports totalled £3.6 billion in 1988 and further improvements were expected in 1989.

Some MPs believed that the MFA was the only protection against job losses in the industry, but since 1974 employment had halved. There was no evidence that the MFA had successfully protected employment.

Mr Keith Vaz (Leicester East, Lab) said that one job had been lost every hour in the past 10 years because of high interest rates and the failure of the Government to support the industry in the same way as other countries had.

Mr Redwood said that in the past five years the Government had given £300 million in regional support and aid.

Mr David Tredinnick (Bosworth, C) said that job losses in the industry would have been greater if the MFA had not been in place.

Mr Redwood said that negotiations about the MFA were going on in the European Community. The debate today was about the actions of negotiators on behalf of all 12 EC countries. He would fight like a tiger for British industry against authority subsidised imports.

The current round of the Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) was trying to include the MFA. The less-developed countries were seeking improvements for themselves in the MFA and the EC was seeking

to be clear after satisfactory negotiations. That was the purpose of the debate.

Mr Douglas Henderson, an Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said that in the year to September 1989, 22,000 textile jobs had been lost.

The economic situation, particularly high interest rates and the until recently over-valued pound, had damaged the industry still further. Today, the problem was rapid fluctuations in the exchange rate.

Between 1973, the year before the MFA was established, and 1987, Italy and Germany had increased their trade balances in textiles while Britain's trade balance, even with the protection of the MFA, had dropped from £75 million to a deficit of £1,614 million.

A case to end the MFA had not been made. Without some regulation of trade the inevitable consequences would be beggar-thy-neighbour protectionism and trade disruption.

The starting point was the British industry's dismal performance in competing for exports and countering the flood of imports. It had failed to restructure while other EC countries had made more of the opportunity to do so.

It was British industry which needed extra support and protection and which would suffer if quotas were too large.

Action against dumping was needed, too.

Everyone wanted to support an aid programme to develop the economies of East European countries. Was the minister ready to make sure that the

industry did not bear the whole burden and that workers in the East Midlands did not lose their jobs?

Sir John Farr (Harborough, C) said that he was "scared stiff" of what the Government might do about the MFA. Without successive agreements over the years, the textile and knitwear and hosiery industries would have ceased to exist in Britain. They would have been priced out of existence by direct competition from the Far East.

If the MFA were to be ditched, he wanted an undertaking that any replacement of the agreement's rules by some restructuring of Gatt would be at least as strong as what existed now.

Mr Nicholas Winterston (Macclesfield, C) said that he was not sure that Mr Redwood understood the immense importance of the MFA to the industry. It should be renewed in July 1991.

Some criticized the MFA as a restraint on trade, but it had moved us towards what everyone wanted — free and fair trade in textiles.

Ministers would ignore the views of MPs on both sides at their peril. Gatt rules on trade would have to be strengthened for at least 10 years before it would be possible to consider phasing out the MFA. "Any earlier move would be imprudent, precipitate and, in my view, downright irresponsible."

Sir Hector Moore (Dumfries, C) expressed concern at Mr Redwood's lukewarm approach to the MFA. Without it, more jobs would have been lost. The Government must take the lead in the EC in ensuring that the MFA continued and was improved in the current Gatt round.

Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Dumfries and Galloway, Lab) said that anti-dumping control must be tightened, subsidies eliminated and all markets opened up. Above all, the Government must fight hard for the industry here.

Mr Vaz said that if the MFA were abolished Leicester would be devastated. The MFA should be not only renewed but toughened.

Mr Kenneth Hargreaves (Hyndburn, C) said that MPs were not asking for protectionism, but for fair trading practice. The MFA rules were not satisfactory at present and any erosion of them would be catastrophic.



Mr Redwood: Fighting like a tiger for British industry.

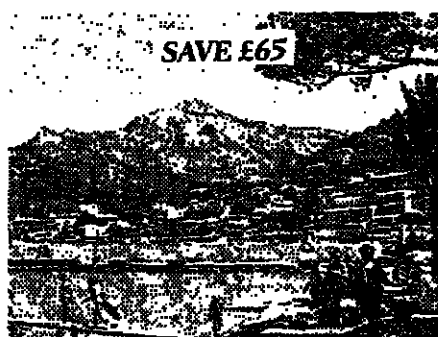
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Modrow retreats over unpopular plans for security

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

Herr Hans Modrow, East Germany's Prime Minister, yesterday moved to save his crumbling coalition by unexpectedly scrapping plans for a new security service.

His climb-down, one day after insisting that such a service was essential, came after his coalition partners added their protests to those of the opposition and threatened to leave Government if the plan went ahead.

The move followed days of intense criticism of the idea and culminated in a threat by three of the four minor parties which support the ruling communists to leave the coalition.

All the parties yesterday distanced themselves from the Socialist Unity (communist) Party, which they complained was trying to reassert its former dominant role.

Herr Hans Dietrich Raspe, the deputy leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, told the Volkskammer (parliament): "We see how the Socialist Unity Party is still trying to satisfy its hunger for power. We will withdraw our mandate immediately if the proposals for an Office for the Protection of the Constitution go ahead."

In an unscheduled speech to the 500 parliamentary delegates, Herr Modrow said that no new security services would be formed before May 6, ruling out the establishment of the proposed Office for the Protection of the Constitution, as well as essential intelligence agencies.

He admitted that some

former Stasi workers were still spying on citizens, but said: "We have taken steps to make sure this does not happen again." The existing Office of National Security would be dissolved as quickly as possible, Herr Modrow said.

The pledges signify a major retreat by the Prime Minister after his speech on Thursday when he insisted that a new security service was necessary to tackle the rise of neo-Nazism. He was evidently shocked at the venom poured

Bonn (Reuters) - Most West Germans do not believe that Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, is serious about introducing reforms, according to an opinion poll published yesterday. The Wickert Institute, polling organization said 87 per cent of those polled thought East Germans would have to hold more demonstrations to stop the communists undermining moves towards democracy.

on the plan over the last week, first by the opposition who threatened to withdraw from talks with the Government, and yesterday from the usually biddable coalition partners.

He was also known to be under pressure from inside the communist party, where sources say that Herr Gregor Gysi, the popular leader, made clear his misgivings on security policy to Herr Modrow on Thursday.

Herr Gysi increased pressure on Herr Modrow by

giving an interview to a West German newspaper on Thursday saying that he was not sure whether the five-party coalition would last until the elections in the current climate of conflict.

There are widespread fears in the party that Herr Modrow, formerly regarded as a "people's man", is losing touch with the popular mood as he devotes more of his time to international affairs.

His economic policy was also criticized by the minor parties in the Volkskammer yesterday, who complained that economic reforms were not taking place fast enough.

Herr Modrow said special units of the police would carry out security work to combat right-wing extremism and terrorism until a new security policy is established by a consensus after the May elections.

He renewed his calls on the opposition to support the Government until then to restore stability.

Earlier, a protest by East Berlin's taxi drivers forced traffic around the Parliamentary building to a standstill. Nearly 300 Trabant taxis lined up, tooting their horns as their drivers protested that ex-Stasi workers were illegally driving taxis while still receiving controversial redundancy payments from the Government.

The drivers also demanded the establishment of free trade unions in the country and protested the authoritarian style of the communist party.

East Germany opens gates for foreign investment

East Berlin (Reuters) - East Germany opened the floodgates to Western capital yesterday by lifting a ban on foreign investment and saying it might allow some outside firms to hold majority stakes in joint venture companies.

Parliament voted overwhelmingly to change the country's rigid constitution to allow foreign participation in East German businesses of all sizes, from huge state combines to tiny private firms.

Frau Christa Luft, the Economics Minister, told Parliament the Government would issue a decree regulating joint ventures in two weeks. This would be a temporary measure pending full legislation to be introduced after free elections later in the year.

Earlier Frau Uta Nickel, the Finance Minister, said the Government would consider exceptions to its planned 49 per cent ceiling on foreign

shareholdings, a limit which has been criticized in West Germany as not doing enough to attract investment.

Frau Luft said on West German television that exceptions were likely to include small and medium firms.

East Germany has communism's strongest economy, but is keen to attract foreign capital to bolster industries wilting because of outdated factories and a dramatic westward exodus of disillusioned citizens.

Frau Nickel told reporters after meeting Herr Theo Waigel, West Germany's Finance Minister: "We will formulate basic rules. It must also be decided for which individual firms we will consider different regulations."

Herr Waigel said West German firms were clamouring to invest in East Germany but would not be satisfied with a 49 per cent limit.

"All forms of participation

are problematic," he said, "but 49 per cent participation will definitely not be enough to maintain the atmosphere that prevails in the markets at the moment and to allow capital to flow in the right direction."

Western economic experts said other reforming East European countries had also initially tried to keep majority stakes in joint ventures but had abandoned this rather than frighten away Western investors.

"Our impression has been for some time that if a joint venture is of particular interest, then the 49 per cent rule will be relaxed," said one Western diplomat, adding: "The word in West Germany is - don't wait for the law to be passed, get into the market now."

He said West Germany's Volkswagen company already had a 50-50 deal with East Germany's IFA automobile concern.

Navy veterans in a submarine graveyard



Laid to rest: Eight Soviet submarines await their final fate - to be sold for scrap - on a barge in Rotterdam's port. All sensitive instruments and equipment were removed from the 30-year-old submarines by the Soviet Navy before they were shipped to a scrap metal dealer in The Netherlands.

Secession in the Soviet Union

Central power threatened by disarray

By Geoffrey Hosking

President Gorbachev's announcement that a law is being drafted to allow individual republics to secede from the Soviet Union makes it clear that the waves he set in motion in Eastern Europe are flowing back and threaten to engulf him and his party.

Elections to the local and republican soviets, which have already started in some areas and continue until March, seem likely to aggravate the disarray of the Soviet Union. The secessionist People's Fronts are bound to do well in most if not all the non-Russian republics.

The two political forces which stand to lose most are the party-state apparatus and the Russians. In the early stages of perestroika they did not see eye to eye, as Russian patriots held the largely Stalinist apparatus responsible for the disasters which have overtaken their nation under Communism.

Nevertheless, there are logical reasons why Russians should side with the party-state apparatus in trying to prevent the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The Russians are traditionally the "imperial" people: their administrative and military cadres, their language and culture, unite and hold together this disparate empire.

With their ethnic cousins, the Ukrainians and Belorussians, there are many of them in all the republics. Inside a post-Soviet conglomerate of states, the Russians would constitute a large and discontented set of minorities, deprived of the standing that support from the metropolis brings them now.

Not all Russians fear this eventuality, but many may be changing their minds as the disorder worsens.

Last year, reacting to the creation of non-Russian Popular Fronts, Russians set up their own informal organizations. In the non-Russian republics they established "International Fronts" to combat indigenous separatism and fight for the integrity of the Soviet Union.

Inside Russia itself, they have been more divided: a Russian Popular Front exists which is prepared to envisage the dissolution of the Soviet Union into national components. But many Russian organizations stand for maintenance of the traditional empire which existed in roughly the same form as it does now. These "Russian Unionists" have now joined in an electoral bloc to prepare for the soviet elections.

At the end of last month they issued a manifesto with quotes, with only one word changed, the challenge issued

by Pyotr Stolypin in 1907 to separatists and revolutionaries: "What we need is not great upheavals, but a great Soviet Russia!"

"The Fatherland is in Danger!" they warn. "The deepening political crisis has placed in doubt the existence of a thousand-year old state... The Soviet Communist Party, which is still the guarantee of political and social stability in the country, has in effect adopted a stance of

stratum in the Russian population) who are worried by the shortages, the inflation and the rise in economic crime which have accompanied perestroika.

Hitherto their jobs and living standards have to some extent been protected by the planned economy which the apparatchiks run. The strikes of the summer and autumn showed how much the workers resent the privileges of those apparatchiks, but at the same time they do not want to lose their protection altogether.

The manifesto recommends a return to the traditions of the *aret*, the Russian working man's cooperative of the nineteenth century, to which each member pooled his capital or labour and from which he received a share of the profits.

The manifesto accepts that the Soviet Union will be a much looser federation than at present. That at least means, in the authors' eyes, that Russians will no longer be subsidizing the other republics, to the detriment of their own well-being.

It also means that the Russian Republic should receive its own national institutions. Hitherto, while the Latvians, Georgians and

Uzbeks have had their own radio and television, Academy of Sciences, capital cities, and Communist Parties, the Rus-

sians have had to make do with the all-Union equivalents. If the Russians are no longer to have an empire, they want to make sure they are at least a nation in the full sense of the word.

Is it possible that Mr Gorbachev might be attracted by this programme? It makes no mention of human rights, the rule of law or pluralism. It is opposed to weakening Soviet defences or opening the media to Western influences. In these respects the Russian Unionists are going in the opposite direction from Mr Gorbachev.

On the other hand, he too is a Russian and an apparatchik; he opposes secession and the surrender of the party's political monopoly, even he reluctantly concedes that they are inevitable in the long run.

Besides, he is under great pressure from his colleagues in the Central Committee to show a firmer hand.

If things continue to go badly he might be prepared to appeal for the Russian working-class vote on this kind of basis. If he does not, it is quite clear that his opponents in the Central Committee will.

The author is professor of Russian history at the School of Slavonic & East European Studies, London University. His *The Awakening of the Soviet Union* is published by Heinemann.

How name-calling provoked a nationalist backlash in Bulgaria

From Michael Hornsby
Kurdzhali, Bulgaria

January 7, 1985, is etched in the memory of Mr Suleyman Mumunov, a young Turkish-speaking watchmaker in this south-eastern Bulgarian town. Sitting nervously at a table in a shabby cafe, he recalled in a low voice the events of that day five years ago.

"Two armed policemen and one plain-clothes man came to the flat where I live with my family and my sister's family," he said. "One of the policemen said: 'Your name will not be Suleyman anymore. From now on you will have a Bulgarian name.' The police ordered us to hand over our identity cards and went away."

A week later the families' identity cards were returned filled out with the new names. From these the young watchmaker learned that he was now to be known as Mr Boyan Martinov. "I did not like it, but I was afraid to resist. You cannot fight red-hot iron with bare hands," he said.

Many Turks in the villages in the Kurdzhali area were, however, prepared to resist, red-hot iron or not. To no avail. Uprisings were crushed by troops in armoured personnel-carriers; the number of people killed and wounded has

never been established, but is likely to have been high.

The imposition of Slavic names was part of a harsh campaign launched in 1984 by Mr Todor Zhivkov, Bulgaria's former ruler, to assimilate the country's ethnic Turkish minority by force.

Mosques were closed, the Turkish language was banned in public places, and Islamic customs, among them ritual circumcision, were prohibited. Even the inscriptions on tombstones

● A policeman said: 'Your name will not be Suleyman any more.' I did not like it, but I was afraid to resist ●

in Turkish cemeteries were to be in Bulgarian.

"I was fined many times for speaking Turkish with friends in public," Mr Mumunov said. "I was not even supposed to talk in Turkish with Turkish-speaking customers in the store where I work."

It was in the shop that we first met Mr Mumunov. The manager, a formidable

woman in leather boots and padded anorak, came up at once and broke into our conversation, insisting that all Turks had voluntarily accepted new names.

"If you want to go back to your Turkish name," she told Mr Mumunov, "you will have to find another job."

Women shoppers quickly gathered round and began berating the increasingly nervous Turk. "What is so dreadful?" one of them shouted. "In America everyone has to have American names." Told this was not true, she seemed genuinely astonished and shocked.

Later, over a cup of coffee in the cafe, Semra Yumunova, an unemployed Turkish primary school teacher, said that circumcised children were often not admitted to schools or even to hospitals unless their parents could produce evidence that they had been circumcised before 1984.

Mounting tensions exploded last spring in bloody clashes between ethnic Turks and Bulgarian security forces, and about 310,000 Bulgarian Turks poured across the border into Turkey during a three-month period, an exodus ended only because Turkey closed the border in late August. Since then about 90,000 Turkish refugees have returned after being unable to find work in Turkey.

Exactly how many Bulgarians of

Turkish descent there are here is uncertain. Out of a total, predominantly Christian, population of nearly nine million, some 1.5 million are estimated to be Muslims.

That total includes several hundred thousand Muslims known as Pomaks, ethnic Bulgarians forced to drop their Turkish names as long ago as the early 1970s. But it is the much larger and faster-growing Turkish minority that is seen as the threat to Bulgarian identity.

After the removal of Mr Zhivkov last November 10, the new reformist Communist Party leadership of Mr Petur Mladenov made a top priority of the reversal of the previous policy.

On December 29, the leadership issued a statement promising an end to the name-changing campaign and the restoration of full cultural and religious rights to the Muslim minority.

It was this announcement which provoked a Bulgarian nationalist backlash. Demonstrations began in Kurdzhali, which lies not 40 miles north of the Turkish border and has a population of 60,000 which is three-fifths Turkish speaking. The unrest spread to Sofia and other cities, continuing every day for a week.

There has been a lull in the demonstrations this week during government-

sponsored talks between rival factions, but the atmosphere remains tense. Ethnic Bulgarians here say they will take to the streets again unless the December 29 decision is rescinded.

Anti-Turkish feeling has deep roots in Bulgarian folk memories of the "Turkish yolk", the 500 years of Turkish occupation which ended in 1878 in most areas, but continued in the south-eastern region along the border until 1913.

Mr Kaloyan Kaloyanov, a Bulgarian

● Our efforts to teach them Bulgarian are wasted because they go home and speak Turkish ●

of Greek origin who runs a shop selling cheap toiletries in Kurdzhali, said he had taken part in the demonstrations daily.

"I don't mind so much what names they have, but if you make concessions the Turks will make more demands. We are afraid the Turkish Army will come over the border and try and take this part of the country back again," he said.

He said his own grandparents had

been killed in a massacre by Turkish troops in Greece at the start of the century. Also, he said, the Turks were very fanatical and tight-knit. What if his daughter should want to marry a Turk? "She could marry an Englishman, a Belgian, a Canadian - anybody, but, please God, not a Turk."

Some observers here see the ethnic issue as reflecting a power struggle between the provincial Communist Party apparatus, which is still largely unchanged from the Zhivkov period, and the new, more reform-minded leadership in Sofia.

"The nationalists have struck a double blow," said Roumen Danov, a magazine editor and a member of the Union of Democratic Forces, the main non-communist opposition group to have emerged since the fall of Mr Zhivkov.

"They have unsettled the new leadership and tarnished the name of the democratic forces by suggesting that their support for Turkish rights calls in question their loyalty to Bulgaria."

He said the new leadership had been well intentioned but shown insensitivity in the way it had made the December 29 announcement. "It was handed down as a decree without any consultation in just the same way as the original announcement taking away Turkish rights."

Athens welcomes exodus of Greek refugees from Russia

From Mario Modiano
Athens

An influx of Greek refugees from the Soviet Union, which has taken the Greek Government by surprise, is being seen as an opportunity to offset problems posed by the concentration of a sizeable Muslim minority near the border with Turkey.

Plans are afoot to resettle thousands of Pontians - Greeks who lived for centuries along the shores of the Black Sea - in Thrace, where a 120,000-strong, Turkish-speaking minority lives. Turkey has protested that this would alter the demography of the region, but was rebuffed by

Athens for an "unwarranted intervention in the domestic affairs of Greece".

The Pontians, who take their name from *Euxinos Pontos* (Hospitable Sea), the ancient Greek name for the Black Sea, are fleeing from a long history of persecution and exile that began some 70 years ago in the wake of Turkey's wars with the Russians and the Greeks.

Many Pontians came to Greece under the compulsory population exchange that sealed the unsuccessful Greek campaign in Asia Minor in 1922. Others fled to Russia.

In the 1940s, however, Stalin deported thousands of Greeks to Central Asia and

Siberia. But, though churches and schools were shut down, they managed to preserve their ethnic traditions and their language, a dialect akin to Ancient Greek.

Since the end of the Second World War, Pontians have drifted into Greece in small numbers. Some 25,000 of an estimated 550,000 Pontians in the Soviet Union have since settled here.

As perestroika eases travel restrictions, they are coming in increasing numbers. Within the last 18 months, some 5,000 have turned up. The Greek consular authorities in Moscow estimate that 20,000 will emigrate to Greece in 1990 and probably another

100,000 by 1993. The exodus caught the Greeks unprepared. The expatriates have been arriving by ship or train, bringing with them bulky appliances, such as television sets, because they are not allowed to export more than 90 roubles (£72) in hard currency.

They huddle together in damp, often squalid basement flats or shantytown shacks provided by fellow-Pontians in the suburbs of Athens and turn up at flea-markets every Sunday to sell their belongings. The Greek authorities are now granting each family a lump sum to get them started.

Mr Yiannis Tsilikidis, from Tashkent, three times up-

rooted during his 70 years, said: "This is the end of the journey. We have nowhere else to go." His family of seven lives in a one-room flat.

The Secretariat-General for Expatriate Greeks has rented hotels in the suburbs to house the families, while the Greek Employment Service pays employers who hire Pontians a daily subsidy of £8 for one year. But most of the newcomers speak no modern Greek and the locals are resentful that they are given priority in jobs at a time of severe unemployment.

Many Greek refugees leave the Soviet Union because of ethnic strife. Many who came from the autonomous terri-

tory of Abkhazia in Georgia complain they were being treated as third-class citizens and denied equal opportunities. They spoke of a movement among the Greek populations to press for regional autonomy.

The authorities are now hastily organizing reception centres in northern Greece. They have set in motion programmes for vocational and language training and are seeking negotiations with Moscow to secure the transfer of pension rights.

Greece hopes to obtain funds from the European Community for a consistent infra-structure programme to relocate the refugees.

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GORBACHOV'S GAMBLE

In Vilnius, President Gorbachov is so far playing a difficult hand with considerable skill. The Central Committee delegation which travelled to Lithuania ahead of him to take the temperature clearly advised him, as he doubtless already knew, that the new-found popularity of the Lithuanian Communist Party stemmed entirely from its decision to break away from the CPSU; and that the rump of the party remaining loyal to Moscow commanded little or no support. The question of party unity was closed. So, in principle, was the question of Lithuania's eventual independence from the Soviet Union - since the Lithuanian party is committed to seeking it.

Before leaving Moscow, therefore, Mr Gorbachov evidently set in train, in the relevant committee of the Supreme Soviet, the drafting of legislation to regulate the modalities of secession. Announcing this in Vilnius, he apparently hopes to transform a situation of confrontation into one of negotiation; and to concentrate Lithuanian minds on the full implications of the course on which they have embarked.

With the victory of principle won, the Lithuanians will have to recognize the difficulties of simply getting up and walking out of the Union. There is a whole skein of laws and contracts to be unravelled first, affecting every dimension of Lithuanian life and reflecting over 40 years of involuntary incorporation into the Soviet state and economy.

Mr Gorbachov will aim to play this process long. The draft law on republican secession will have to be prepared, published, debated and - perhaps - passed into law by the Supreme Soviet. Negotiations would then begin between the Lithuanians and the central Union authorities on this basis. They would be complex. The Union authorities would hold strong cards, deriving from Lithuania's present dependence on the Union for the energy and raw materials without which its economy would grind to a halt.

If the end result were seen to be secession, the Union would no longer have its current and considerable interest in the maintenance of Lithuania's exporting capacity. A bargain could be struck for a more or less amicable separation, but it would be a tough one. Mr

Gorbachov is doing his best to bring this harsh reality home to the Lithuanians. He has told them, in no uncertain terms, to look before they leap; and to think hard about survival in world markets without Soviet subsidies.

Mr Gorbachov's gamble is twofold. The first is that the inevitably drawn-out process of a legal and orderly divorce will be a sufficiently attractive scenario to ensure the success of the Lithuanian communists in next month's elections to the Soviets. The Sajudis nationalist movement is already questioning Mr Gorbachov's sincerity and could carry the elections on a "don't trust Moscow - secession now!" ticket.

This might result in civil disorders of sufficient gravity to raise the issue of forcible intervention which Mr Gorbachov is doing his utmost to avoid - but which might then be the condition of his own political survival. His second gamble is that whatever deal he is able to strike with the Lithuanian communists - "secede if you must but not yet" - will be sufficient to enable him to weather his Central Committee's plenum at the end of this month. The prospect of the Lithuanian coast in non-Soviet hands, of civil disorders, or both, will ring alarm bells among the military and the conservatives.

The question is no longer whether Lithuania will secede but when and how. Must this inevitably lead to the progressive disintegration of the Soviet Union and its reduction to a "fortress Russia"? Not necessarily. Estonia and Latvia, with their significantly larger Russian minorities, would find secession a tougher proposition in terms of their own internal politics. The spectacle of Lithuania in deep economic crisis, beyond alleviation by Western aid, would be a powerful disincentive, Baltic solidarity notwithstanding. Every other non-Russian republic would face even more acute and complex problems than Lithuania in going it alone.

Having accepted the inevitability of constitutional change, Mr Gorbachov's task is now to manage it. If his double gamble in Vilnius succeeds, he may be able to preside over the orderly transformation of the Soviet Union into a Soviet Federation. If it does not, his own future and that of perestroika are bleak.

SAVING THE YANOMANI

The Brazilian Government's abrupt decision to allow 45,000 illegal gold prospectors to stay in the north-west Amazon region of Roraima overturns a court order, violates the Brazilian constitution and threatens an endangered people with genocide. For more than 10,000 years, the Yanomani Indians have inhabited the remote uplands straddling the borders of Brazil and Venezuela. A Stone Age culture of semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers who also practice subsistence agriculture, they lived in perfect harmony with the rain forest.

The Brazilian constitution bans commercial activity in Indian reserves without the approval of both Congress and the tribes concerned. The havoc wrought on the Yanomani's culture and environment since 1985, when their lands were first illegally invaded by freelance gold prospectors, speaks for the wisdom of that provision. With the connivance of the military (which favours opening up the "last frontier") it has been repeatedly violated by corrupt local officials. It has also been violated by the Brazilian Government itself, which last year reduced Yanomani land by 70 per cent - a decree since declared unconstitutional by the federal court.

The Brazilian gold rush threatens the Yanomani with extinction. Their numbers have dwindled to between 5,000 and 9,000. No precise estimates are available of how many have died from diseases brought by the *garimpeiros* - tuberculosis, venereal disease and river blindness - and to which the Yanomani have no resistance. The Government was, however, forced last month by irrefutable evidence of a malaria epidemic to allocate £1 million for emergency medical assistance.

The miners attack riverbeds and banks with high-pressure jets, causing them to silt up. The oil and mercury they use in panning have killed off the fish, and the burnt-off mercury

has penetrated the food chain in such strong concentrations that the Yanomani themselves have died from mercury poisoning. Game, disturbed by the mining and the light aircraft the miners use, has fled the hunting grounds.

There are well-documented instances of rape and mass killings of Yanomani villagers, including cases of children being shot out of the trees for amusement. A report by the Justice Ministry last year called for the expulsion of the miners and the dismantling of their illegal airstrips and warehouses. Last October, a federal judge ordered the Government to expel the miners from the entire Yanomani region.

Brazilian pressure groups threatened to charge the Government with genocide before the International Court of Justice. Last month - possibly too late, in the view of anthropologists, to save the Yanomani - President Sarney finally ordered an operation costing £2.3 million to evict the miners from Roraima, and to destroy their aircraft and landing strips.

It was to start last Sunday; but after pressure from the military and violent demonstrations the Justice Minister met the miners' representatives (though not the Yanomani), and announced a "peaceful solution". It legalizes the miners' presence in three large areas of Yanomani territory, in return for undertakings to respect areas reserved for the Indians, to give up their weapons and to build schools and clinics.

This week's decision puts in question not only the survival of the Yanomani, but Brazil's commitment to the conservation of the Amazonian wilderness. In 1992, the Brazilian Government will play host to a United Nations conference on environment and development. It could make no better start to preparations than by finding the political courage now to save the Yanomani.

DRIVING A BARGAIN

The complaint of the European Consumers' Union that motorists in Britain are being overcharged for new cars compared with other parts of the European Community illustrates just how far apart the theory and practice of a common market in goods and services can be. The difference in price charged for the same model in Britain and elsewhere is apparently still widening. Average prices before tax are said to be 31 per cent higher in Britain than in Belgium.

There are complex reasons why the British customer has been prepared to tolerate such exorbitant prices, and a major influence must be that over half of all new cars in Britain are company cars. This has blunted the edge of consumer awareness. The reason why free market forces have not been able to correct such an obvious anomaly is simpler - there is no Europe-wide free market in new cars. Manufacturers, distributors and dealers have found various ways of protecting the vested interests they have in things staying as they are.

There is no evidence of an explicit cartel, but there are all sorts of unwritten understandings, amounting to a common approach, which is producing something not so different in its effect. The British car market offers favourable profit margins both to foreign and British manufacturers, and it is in almost no one's interests - except of course the consumer's - to kill the goose that is so reliably laying such golden eggs.

It is simple market theory that if the shop next door is offering the same goods at a lower price, it will attract the custom and force its competitors to respond. But so far none of the major car manufacturers, British or foreign, has seized the opportunity presented by the

distortion in the car market. The initiative to take advantage of lower prices on the Continent has largely been left to individuals, though there are firms which specialize in helping them to do so. It is not that difficult to go to a dealer abroad, buy a car at local prices, and drive it back to Britain. The practice is known as "parallel importing."

The crux of the complaint made by the European Consumers' Union is that a wide range of obstacles to parallel importing is applied at both ends. It is claimed, for instance, that some British dealers, allegedly at the bidding of the manufacturers, will not honour the warranties given with a new car when it is bought in this way; that foreign dealers are pressured by manufacturers not to sell right-hand drive cars to non-residents; that there are lengthy delays in delivery, and that exceptional delivery charges are levied. It is also claimed that the British authorities, wittingly or not, make the process of registering a vehicle bought abroad long and difficult.

The European Commission has tried to make such restraints on competition illegal, and the European Court of Justice has attempted to enforce the rules, but so far to little effect. They will not have discharged their duties in this matter until the market has been freed, and parallel importing has become a significant influence on the British car market.

Parallel importing is itself an anomaly, produced by the absence of fair competition. The EC's policy is to impose an upper limit of 12 per cent on the permitted price differential across Europe. Proposals to make that effective will be received with interest in Britain; and they would quickly raise the public perception of the benefits of community membership.

Poll tax burden on businesses

From the Director of Aims of Industry
Sir, Under legislation introducing the community charge, employers will be responsible for collecting arrears of defaulters, as a result of deduction of earnings orders made by local authorities. This raises an important issue of principle - that of making the employer responsible for decisions which should be taken by the individual.

Collection of national insurance contributions, pay-as-you-earn, and deductions of earnings for maintenance already force the employer to act for the individual employee - and add to the employer's stress. The time has come to end this expansion which makes the employer a combination of bailiff and debt-collector.

The proposals in the community charge go further than any existing practice in that employers will be required to deal with various local authorities and to make complex calculations for deductions for each pay period. There has been no consultation by the Government with business, and many small employers without sophisticated computer software will find themselves in difficulties in deduction of the payments.

Some individuals will refuse to pay the poll tax on political grounds. They may be wrong, but the employers should not be required to solve the Government's and local authorities' problems. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL IVENS, Director, Aims of Industry, 40 Doughty Street, WCI. January 10.

Polling in the aisles

From the Reverend Canon Roy Henderson
Sir, For years, as vicar of St Mary's, I have been teaching that the church is not a building but people. Now I have been asked with my own petard, S. M. Church has received a request for the payment of the community charge. Do I pay £400 in the interests of theological truth, or tell the registration officer that S. M. Church is a building? Yours etc, ROY HENDERSON, St Mary's Vicarage, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, Avon. January 10.

All about Brahms

From Sir Thomas Armstrong
Sir, It is reported in today's issue, under the heading, "Cycling through Brahms", that Gerhard Oppitz is to play the whole of Brahms's solo piano music in four recitals in London: comment is made on the rarity of this hazardous adventure.

It is perhaps not inappropriate to recall that many years ago I arranged a summer school for piano teachers in Felixstowe and invited Donald Tovey [1875-1940] to come one morning to give a talk on Brahms's piano music.

Tovey was then living in retirement, not far away, old and ailing, but still eager to cooperate. "I'll come," he said, "not for one morning, but for all five mornings, and will play all Brahms's piano music, with comments." And this is what he unforgotfully did, playing without music.

There were many wrong notes: there were lapses of memory, covered up by periods of skilful improvisation, for which Tovey apologized frankly. His comments, wide-ranging, penetrating, and often illuminated brightly by personal reminiscences were far from uncritical. I wish they could have been recorded. Anybody who listened attentively was unlikely ever to forget the experience.

How sad it is that the genius of this extraordinary man is so inadequately recognized and in danger of being entirely forgotten!

THOMAS ARMSTRONG, 1 East Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire. January 9.

Quick passport

From Mr F. O. Marsh
Sir, On Friday, December 22, at 1300 hours I walked into the Passport Office, Petty France, London, to apply for a passport. I was not necessary, and handed in my used passport, passport renewal form, photographs and cheque and left at 1307. On Tuesday, January 9, I collected my new passport at midday and was in and out of the Passport Office in less than five minutes. Total time 12 minutes. Yours faithfully, FREDERICK O. MARSH, Marsh Business Services, Suite 4, 40 Buckingham Gate, Westminster, SW1. January 10.

Riding in the Row

From Mr Eric Westbrook
Sir, Mr Gerald Leach (January 9) expresses his disappointment with the standard of dress of riders in Rotten Row. But he is wrong to assume that the only well turned-out riders are officers of the Household Cavalry.

The Civil Service Riding Club has a membership of nearly 500, was founded in 1937, and rides daily throughout the year in Rotten Row. Its dress regulations for riding in Hyde Park call for riders to wear hacking jacket, collar and tie, riding breeches or jodhpurs, and the appropriate footwear. The only real difference between our regulations and the clothes worn 30 years ago by Mr

Tory rift on links with Europe

From Mr Derek Prag, MEP for Hertfordshire (European Democrat (Conservative))
Sir, One expects from a former chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr Tebbit (article, January 9) a determination to cool tempers and narrow rather than widen any rifts he may perceive between sectors of the party. Conservative members of the European Parliament are the European Community wing of the party, and the need of the small band of 32 Conservatives to work in close and confident cooperation with our centre right partners, if we are to achieve anything, does not make us anything other than loyal British Conservatives.

Mr Tebbit speaks in blood-curdling terms of "the fight for Britain's independence" and the threat of "the lowering of the curtain on the history of this Kingdom." I do hope he is not going to become as prone to wild exaggerations as Mr Tony Wedgwood Benn, some of whose utterances on Europe those words recall.

Mr Tebbit also quotes some percentages of how much economic sovereignty we now retain. Such figures have no scientific basis; they are purely hypothetical and not helpful. The real and irrefutable fact is that the European Community accounts for only about 5 per cent of the public spending of the Twelve, while the 12 national governments and their local authorities account for the other 95 per cent.

The prospect of the UK being "reduced to a province of Europe", and of the Community becoming a "single, central authority" sounds horrific. Indeed, it is horrific - so horrific that I know of no one in the European Parliament, or indeed anywhere on the Continent, who advocates or would countenance that kind of Community, for Britain or indeed for any of their own countries. Europe's attraction lies in its very diversity.

Any attribution of new powers to the Community can come only through agreement - by all 12 member states. In other words, if we don't want something, it can't happen to us. And the Community can wield only "softened powers" - those powers which have been granted to it. Of course, you cannot expect all

Airbus dispute

From Lord Dowding
Sir, As a lifelong (though sometimes disillusioned) supporter of the aircraft industry in this country, I am dismayed by the AEU strike against British Aerospace (leading article, January 11).

Until the formation of Airbus Industrie, the passenger-transport section had been dominated by the American aircraft industry. Airbus was conceived, formed, and generated entirely by the French. How I do wish it could have been the British! Our Government ducked the issue. Hawker-Siddeley alone had the guts to take a 20 per cent stake in the

Pay leadership

From Sir John Acland
Sir, It is often and rightly said that example is a prerequisite of leadership. The new employment secretary, Mr Howard, in common with other ministers, now exhorts industry (report, January 5) to agree lower wage settlements in the interests of curbing inflation and preserving employment. Such exhortations can only reasonably be expected to fail on deaf ears if the "captains of industry" (to whom the minister says he will speak) and members of Parliament (who must be aware of his message) continue to award themselves pay rises far in excess not only of the inflation rate but also of the rate agreed for the workforce.

The latter might, however, in future respond if their bosses would publicly state that they would take no pay rise in excess of inflation and, better still, take nothing extra for a year. The same should equally apply to members of Parliament who, though not top people, are always forcing their views on the public. Such a self-denying ordinance might help to achieve what is so evidently and urgently needed; the example has to come from the top. Yours faithfully, JOHN ACLAND, Feniton Court, Honiton, Devon.

The new Romania

From Mr Zalli Jaffe
Sir, I consider Mrs Jessica Douglas-Horne's letter (January 11) to be grossly one-sided. A rabbi or not, Moshe Rosen succeeded in organising the Jewish community and Jewish life, communism notwithstanding; be it the building of synagogues, Jewish schools, elderly people who received their kosher food at home daily from the Kehila, and a unique system of charity.

We all detested Ceausescu. And now that we know how "Stalinistic" he really was, all the more does Rabbi Rosen deserve credit for his achievements on behalf of the Jewish community. He maintained a cordial relationship with Ceausescu. So did many of the leaders of the National Salvation Front. So did most Western leaders. There is one distinction between those Western leaders and Rabbi Rosen. He had to. Yours etc, ZALLI JAFFE, Jaffe, Fund, Shefi & Co., PO Box 7381, Jerusalem, Israel. January 11.

Orchids from seed

From the Earl of Shaftesbury
Sir, Francesca Greenock (Review, January 6) alarms me when one of her well-known gardeners opts for growing wild orchids from seed in his famed garden.

Surely, this intention may well encourage less knowledgeable enthusiasts to scour the country-

side ravaging orchids for their seed, a deed we know to be undesirable, especially at a time when so many conservationists are trying to re-educate the public and preserve our natural flora. Yours faithfully, SHAFTESBURY, The Estate Office, Wimborne St Giles, Dorset. January 8.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (01)782 5046.

Staff reductions in Aids clinics

From Dr B. A. Evans and others
Sir, World Aids Day on December 1, 1989, saw the Minister for Health, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, heading a conference to reinforce the Government's view that heterosexual spread of HIV infection posed a potential threat to public health sufficient to justify unlinked anonymised testing.

In the previous June, Mr David Mellor, then minister, stressed the vital role of genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics in preventing the spread of HIV infection and stated that he expected health authorities to take advantage of additional funding to substantially upgrade these services.

The threat of heterosexual spread in England is focused on those areas where the prevalence of HIV infection is highest, foremost among which are the health districts in west London. Yet in Riverside, the district with the largest problem of all (2,524 persons HIV positive, including 607 with Aids) GUM services are actually being cut.

Thus, in East Riverside (Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea) the two clinics, including the recently opened Kobler Centre for Aids day care, have suffered reductions in reception staff, nursing staff, accommodation, or accessibility.

West Riverside (Hammersmith and Fulham) has fared even worse. A new purpose-built clinic has been left unoccupied for six months, the only extra doctor funded from Aids money has been withdrawn, and a vacant health adviser's post has been frozen. The net result is that staffing is actually lower than for more than a decade, despite the provision of many extra clinic sessions for HIV/Aids and colposcopy.

We cannot remain silent any longer while the Government continues to claim expansion of the health service and at the same time creates budget deficits which are causing reduction of services precisely where they are most needed. Ironically, additional Aids funding is being used to create posts without proper evaluation of their need or effectiveness and allocations are wasted on items of marginal relevance to patient care. Yours faithfully, B. A. EVANS, A. G. LAWRENCE, P. L. SAMARASINGHE, West London Hospital, Hammersmith Road, W6. January 8.

"See For Yourself"

From Mr Alan Wright and Mr Peter Weil
Sir, In response to your reports (January 10, 12) concerning the editorial process for the BBC's *See For Yourself* programme, Chrysalis were given a brief to make an eight-minute film about Radio 3 and its range of output. We consulted together throughout the process and at all times were in agreement.

When the film was ready, it was shown to John Drummond (Controller, Radio 3) for his comments (a practice we followed for all seven films). John Drummond made suggestions for minor changes, which we both agreed would enhance the viewers' understanding.

What your news story portrays as censorship we would regard as customary practice and fair dealing. Yours faithfully, ALAN WRIGHT (Director and Head of Programmes, Chrysalis Television), PETER WEIL (Editor, *See For Yourself*, BBC Television), Television Centre, Wood Lane, W12.

In the wrong order?

From Dr J. A. Riddle
Sir, You report (January 5) that Her Majesty has been pleased to honour the efforts of Herr Manfred Rommel in the reconciliation of our countries. While undoubtedly fully deserved, was not the choice of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Motto, "For God and the Empire") singularly inappropriate? Indeed, is not the order itself now a relic of the past?

The Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George, which has the motto *Auspiciis mellioris aevi* (token of a better age) sounds more suitable. Yours faithfully, J. A. RIDDLE, New Clee, St Wilfrid's Green, Hailsham, East Sussex. January 11.

Where credit's due

From Mr David Watt
Sir, Mr Leonard Ketley's letter (January 10) on the categories of people who get credit along with the cast of films parallels my own research into television productions. Two preliminary conclusions emerge: 1. The smaller the number of speaking parts, the greater the number of those credited with work behind the scenes. 2. The greater the number of names on the credit list, the faster it is shown. Sometimes they roll past so fast that I cannot even count them, never mind read them. Yours faithfully, D. WATT, 69 Dartmouth Park Road, NW5. January 10.

TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

Sydney

Science is one of the greatest and most ambiguous forces in sport. And science has given sport an exciting and potentially alarming substance: one that improves performance, gives a vital psychological edge over the opposition, and does the most sensational things to your body. Nor is it illegal: in fact, the Australians are flaunting their belief in this stuff of miracles. It is called lycra, from which the whizziest sports clothes are now made.

Lycra shines and shimmers; it covers but never conceals. If you want to see state-of-the-art lycra, be prepared for the Australian swimming team at the Commonwealth Games next week. The swimming cozzies break away from the traditional Australian green and gold: they are black, lit up with slashes of lime-green and neon yellow. "This is a tremendous psych-up for the team," said their head coach, Don Talbot. "With the overall tally likely to be close, especially against Canada, something like this can tip the balance our way." Talbot's sentiments were echoed by a competitor, Lisa Curry: "In past Olympics or Commonwealth Games we have lined up and felt like dogs. If you look good, you feel good, and that's important."

Oh, and here is some more important news: Australia's synchronized swimming team will wear sequins over a "dolphin print". I have made a New Year's resolution never to say another unkind word about synchro, so I must move on at once.

If you go to Australia you must be prepared for a disinclination to cater for English sensibilities, but all the same, I wish I had known in advance that cricket coverage on Channel 9 would be presented by Tony Greig in a silly hat. It's made of straw and would sit well on a cowboy. The old *bête noir* of the English game (former England captain, lest we forget) looks pleased with the hat, pleased with life and most particularly pleased with A.W. Greig.

He will not, I hope, be commenting on the largest game of cricket ever, to be played in Wellington on Tuesday. Each side will have 150 players, captained respectively by Margaret Shields, a New Zealand cabinet minister, and the Western Samoan consul-general, La'ulu Fetaimalama Mata'afa. The game is a curtain-raiser to a 15-a-side tournament of Pacific cricket, which is the islanders' adaptation of the game involving rubber balls, concrete pitches and bats shaped like war-clubs. The Samoans call it *krikri* and were introduced to the game by 19th century missionaries hoping to substitute it for inter-village warfare. Whole villages still sometimes travel to play, and there are week-long matches. German colonists tried to ban the game, but it lives on, under varying rules, not only in Samoa, but in the Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia and even Yankee Hawaii.

BARRY FANTONI



'Hugo says it's an important mark of Post-Modernist Expressionism linking the Renaissance with the New Wave Minimalists'

The most beleaguered sportsman in Australia this week is unquestionably Bob Hawke, whose day job involves being prime minister. He has been taking part in a pro-am golf tournament, and it has not been easy. Pilots involved in the apparently endless saga of their industrial dispute hired a plane to persecute Hawke while he was trying to play a round alongside Greg Norman. As he teed off in front of a gallery of 1,500 people, the plane appeared, trailing a slogan that read: "Hawke's airline was waste your taxes." The plane made a later appearance, this time telling the world: "Foreign scabs Hawke's shame." Finally, Hawke was buzzed while putting on the 18th green. He was, I am told, striking the ball with unusual venom.

Henry Blofeld, the English cricket commentator, has long had a love affair with Australia. That this is in some measure reciprocated is shown by the fact that Blofeld is sometimes credited with the oldest and hoariest Australian joke in existence: the immigration joke. "Do you have a criminal record?" the incoming passenger is asked. "Oh, my dear old thing, I didn't realize it was still compulsory."

You, and I, appear anonymously in hundreds of snapshots. For it is impossible to walk in London without blundering across the viewfinders of a dozen tourists at the instant their cameras click.

And what about the Yorkshire Ripper? This man, too, must lurk unrecognized in scores of family albums. Such documents constitute a set, scattered beyond collection, yet logically intact.

This week I was reminded of another mysterious set: the 20,000 (or so) written replies to members of the public which went out between 1977 and 1979 from the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Thatcher. They went in the name of her correspondence secretary — me.

On Thursday the House discussed the ambulance dispute. Busy with my parliamentary sketch, I wandered from the Press Gallery, nodding at a knot of

lobby correspondents — the élite, to whom Sources Close to Downing Street will talk. "Probably waiting for Bernard Ingham," I thought, brushing past. "Ah, Mr Parris," said one of the great ones, in tones of mock gravity. "May we have a quote from you?" I smiled. A little joke, obviously. They must be bored. "Seriously, what's your comment on this?" They thrust a letter at me. It was dated August 22, 1978. "Dear Gentlemen," it started. "... on Mrs Thatcher's behalf..." The penny dropped. It was a reply (apparently) to an inquiry from a group of ambulance men. It stated that when Mrs Thatcher advocated linking

pay to inflation in the "emergency services", she meant ambulance as well as fire personnel. "This is dynamite," one of the journalists said. "Where did the policy in this letter come from?" Of course I haven't the faintest recollection. I dare say I just made it up, out of sheer devilment. Or perhaps I had looked up "emergency" in a dictionary. There is even the possibility that I checked with Mrs Thatcher herself, although this seems unlikely as she was terribly busy and one would not have wanted to trouble her about anything so minor. The main thing is that it was interesting to see that my handwriting was just as bad when I was 28.

Thatcher's behalf" to an angry lady. Her letter complained about immigrants, noisy Down's Syndrome children, and the thin walls of her council house. Her letter lacked charm but I do see, now, that it was unwise to state on Mrs Thatcher's headed notepaper that people in council houses should be grateful to have a roof over their heads provided at the taxpayers' expense. Weeks later, as the 1979 election loomed, the *Daily Mirror* printed my letter as a "front page exclusive". Next, the Labour Party printed three million copies of the letter, in leaflet form, to be distributed nationally to council tenants. "The Letter that let the

MATTHEW PARRIS

Pendulum way to industrial common sense

David Davis urges compulsory arbitration in monopoly pay disputes

The protracted agonies of the ambulance dispute continue to divide opinion, even among Conservative MPs. The public does not like to see the ambulance workers on strike and, to be fair to them, most crews probably hate being on strike. So why on earth do we allow such a situation to arise?

Why can we not devise a system that encourages fair resolution of disputes by methods other than a fight to the finish? Why can we not resolve disputes in a way that rewards reasonableness instead of motivating militancy? For we can be sure of one thing: the ambulance workers' dispute will not be the last in the public sector.

There is an alternative which can avoid these messy, protracted and damaging disputes: a fair and successful system of arbitration. But traditional arbitration has severe pitfalls. In order to get a better deal, both parties avoid making concessions early. Many negotiators believe that arbitrators split the difference and pitch their last bids high or low accordingly.

So bargaining can lead to a widening gap between labour and management. The ambulance dispute is a good example. The Government has offered 6.5 per cent. The ambulance workers began by asking for 10.8 per cent, then demanded 20 per cent and arbitration, clearly in the belief that the arbitrators would split the difference between the two parties.

At present, they are asking for 11.4 per cent. This is the classic tactic employed by trade unions in protracted disputes. It would appear that Roger Poole, the union negotiator, is more interested in winning the PR battle than in resolving the dispute.

To deal with these problems the method of pendulum arbitration was developed, under which the arbitrator must choose one final offer — he cannot split the difference. This encourages negotiations to bargain as far as possible, before involving a procedure which is extremely uncertain, and to devise a "more

reasonable" final offer than that of the other side to maximize its own chance of winning. The arbitrator's decision is publicly stated and publicly justified, just like a court judgment.

The procedure is designed to be uncomfortable. The arbitrator is denied the easy compromise. The negotiators face the possibility of outright loss. But it is this very discomfort that is the key to the method's success: by encouraging both sides to bargain constructively in order to avoid it. Like any deterrent system, it works best when it is not actually invoked — when it forces a negotiated solution.

The system is extremely flexible. The arbitrator's criteria, which would also be public, can be designed to reflect any practical consideration. Hence, pay differentials and reaction to varying local pressure can easily be incorporated into the proposal which each side submits to the arbitrator. The proposal

could even be regional rather than national.

The pendulum system is no theoretical pipe-dream. It is currently in use in both the United States and Britain. In the US, public sector industrial strikes are illegal in all but nine states. Arbitration is mandatory in 20 states, of which 10 use conventional arbitration, eight use pendulum arbitration, and two use both.

In Britain, no-strike and pendulum arbitration agreements have been adopted in more than 30 companies, including Cadbury, though they are typically associated with companies under progressive Japanese management. Neither is it confined to high-tech industries; the port of Immingham on Humber-side has a no-strike agreement with its dockers.

One omission from the Government's latest Green Paper on Employment Law — which perhaps should have been included — was any explicit way of dealing

with persistent crippling monopoly-sector strikes. Pendulum arbitration, although no panacea for poor management, gives us a vital tool to fix this problem.

Poole's system of arbitration — the conventional method — only serves to encourage irresponsible negotiating behaviour, as Nupe is currently demonstrating. If the system of industrial arbitration is to remain unchanged, then the trade unions will have to forgo the right to strike. The union leaders should no longer be permitted to blackmail the Government with the kind of "take it or leave it" approach used by Poole.

The Government should legislate to replace the strike weapon in companies and services which have more than, say, a 75 per cent monopoly, with the right to negotiate, backed up by compulsory pendulum arbitration. This law should be enforced by the right to sequester union assets in the event of an illegal strike. The initiation of

such proceedings should be open not just to management, but to the main victims of monopoly strikes — the customers.

This approach would be fair and even-handed. It would maintain justice in the workplace. It would be decisive, but non-inflationary. It would be constructive, in contrast to the bitter legacies left by strike action. It would replace "might is right" methods of conflict resolution with the rule of reason. More than anything, it would convert the negotiation process into a joint search for constructive solutions, rather than the battle for advantage that exists in the state sector at the moment.

Politics was once described as the art of the possible. For Poole, negotiation is clearly the art of the plausible. But government is the art of the practical, and for that reason the strike weapon should be replaced with pendulum arbitration.

David Davis, Conservative MP for Boothferry, is author of *The Power of the Pendulum* (Centre for Policy Studies).

Why East and West must stay apart

West Berlin

What used to be a moderate sense of German nationalism is giving way to nationalist emotion. Our neighbours watch with anxiety, even with alarm, as Germans recklessly talk themselves into the will to unity.

Day by day, the people of East Germany are struggling for greater freedom and razing the bastions of a hated system by non-violent means. This is an event unique in German history. But these events are in danger of being overshadowed as West German politicians demand the stage, and with it the spotlight. The Bonn government, with Theo Waigel, the minister of finance, in the vanguard, drapes its cornucopia in glittering promises, then dangles it ever higher, demanding that the revolutionaries take ever riskier leaps to reach it.

Meanwhile Chancellor Kohl, with an eye on the elections later this year, offered a 10-point reunification programme, wrapped in statesmanlike oratory, that met with wide applause. Contradictions and omissions, such as the refusal to recognize without qualification Poland's western borders, were overlooked. But disenchantment soon set in. For no one can ever again permit such a concentration of power in the heart of Europe. Certainly the great powers cannot — nor can the Poles, the Dutch or the Danes.

But neither can we Germans. Because there can be no demand for a new version of a unified nation that, in the course of barely 75 years, though under several managements, has filled the history books with millions of dead and millions of refugees, with rubble, defeat and the burden of crimes that can never be undone.

We should learn from our compatriots in East Germany, for they were not given freedom as a gift, as were the citizens of the Federal Republic, but have had to wrest their freedom from an all-embracing system. They have had to struggle to achieve it on their own, while we West Germans stand amid our riches, yet poor by comparison.

So what is this boast that West Germans know better about democracy when our grade on the first exam is satisfactory at best? What is this exultation at the corruption that has come to light in East Germany when stench clings to our own system? And measured against the modest wishes of those we presume to call the have-nots on the other side, what is this imperiousness incarnate in the person of Helmut Kohl?

Consider the possibilities that were open to East Germany after 1945 and their present-day effects. No sooner had greater Germany's systematic coercion lost its power than the Stalinist system took hold with new, though familiar forms of coercion. Economically exploited by



Günter Grass, the West German novelist, urges help for the new nation arising beyond the rubble of the Wall, but sees reunification as an exercise in self-delusion

the Soviet Union (itself ravaged by the greater German Reich), confronted by Soviet tanks during the 1953 uprising and then finally trapped behind the Wall, the citizens of East Germany have had to pay, and as proxies for the citizens of the Federal Republic, to pay and pay again. It was not we who bore the chief burden for a world war that all Germans lost. No, they bore it, in unfair measure.

And so we owe them quite a lot. What is needed is not a patronizing quick boost or a bribe buyout of a bankrupt state, but a far-reaching equalization of burdens, payable at once and with no conditions. We can finance the debt we owe by cutting our military budget and imposing on every West German a surtax commensurate with income. Only then can we and our compatriots in the GDR speak and negotiate as equals. But although we have one history and one culture, those negotiations must be about two confederated states. The precondition for self-determination is all-encompassing indepen-

dence, and that includes economic independence.

The hocus-pocus of reunification rhetoric is seductive but gets us nowhere. Once it is set aside, it becomes clear that the suggestion of Hans Modrow, the prime minister of the GDR, for a contractual community is well suited to the present situation and its eventual possibilities.

This would allow for a commission, with equal representation from both countries, to coordinate obvious matters such as transport, energy and the postal service — and to oversee the equalization payment that the Federal Republic owes the GDR. An additional task in the service of peace would be a step-by-step reduction of defence budgets and co-ordination of joint German responsibility for development aid to the Third World. Not the least of its tasks, the commission could tackle environmental pollution, which disregards all national boundaries.

All such efforts and more like them, if they are successful, will make room for further German-German advances. But with one precondition: the renunciation of any unified state. Union with East Germany by annexation would involve losses that could never be made good. For the citizens of a subsumed state, there would be nothing left of their hard-earned identity — achieved at last at the cost of exemplary struggle. Their own history would sink beneath the dull weight of a standardized history. Nothing would be gained except an alarming excess of power, swollen with the lust for more and more power.

Despite all our protestations, even well-intentioned ones, we Germans would once again be feared. Our neighbours would gaze at us with justifiable mistrust, which would very quickly give rise to a renewed sense of isolation and with it the dangerous self-pitying mentality that sees itself as surrounded by enemies. A reunited Germany would be a colossus, bedevilled by complexes and blocking its own path and the path to European unity.

On the other hand, a confederation of the two German states, and their declared renunciation of a unified state, would benefit European union, especially because, like the new German self-conception, it too will be a confederation.

This article is adapted from Günter Grass's speech to a West German Social Democratic Party congress last month.

Michael Kinsley

Don't just hang on

Washington

When the price of something goes up, the supply of it increases. That is the consolation offered by economists throughout the ages. A higher price for apples will induce more people to grow apples. But no such consolation is available in the case of paintings by dead artists. The skyrocketing prices of art masterpieces will not produce more masterpieces. A few may come out of hiding, and perhaps a forgery or two will add to the world's enjoyment of great art until they are exposed and denounced. But the main economic effect of the price explosion for works of art is to transfer wealth to the present owners.

Economists call the mistaken feeling of increased wealth caused by general inflation "the money illusion". The inflation in art prices is slightly different: call it "the Monet illusion". When an Impressionist painting thought to be worth \$15 million is suddenly worth \$30 million, the world is not \$15 million richer. However, the owner's claim on the world's existing wealth has doubled.

For this reason, it is hard to understand all the hair-pulling about the terrible effect on the public of the art masterpiece price explosion. After all, most of the works are owned by institutions, owned, in turn, by the public. Economically, museums and galleries are by far the biggest beneficiaries of higher art prices. So why have so many art dealers entered a blue period?

The reason, of course, is that museums, as a rule, only buy works of art and do not sell them. If museums could overcome their anti-selling fetish, they could exploit the enormous power the art boom has given them for at least three different purposes.

First, to break the back of the art market, which is already shaky. There was talk of Picasso's "Au Lapin Agile" breaking the world record of \$53.9 million set two years ago by Van Gogh's "Irises". It went for \$40.7m. Revelations about fancy financing arrangements and other manipulative practices by the auction houses make it all look increasingly like a classic speculative bubble. William Gramp, a University of Chicago professor, notes in his recent book about the economics of art, *Pricing the Priceless*, that historically, art has never been a good investment.

If the high priests of the art world really think that exorbitant prices are turning art into a commodity, corroding aesthetic sensibilities and spreading philistinism like a plague, nothing could be easier than to burst the bubble. Prices are kept artificially high because the vast majority of great paintings are permanently off the market. Even the possibility of a small fraction of them coming up for sale would cause prices immediately to plummet.

S.I. Newhouse, the billionaire American publisher, is widely

suspected of paying \$17.7 million for a Jasper Johns in order to raise the value of the Johnses he already owns. If museums were really determined to push prices down, they could pull a reverse Newhouse and sell a masterpiece or two.

Second, rather than destroy their own wealth, museums might wish to exploit it more efficiently. At any level of prices, museums can afford almost any painting they want, provided they are willing to sell others. High prices do not prevent museums from improving their collections — merely from expanding them indefinitely. And a visitor cannot help noticing that the world's major museums are already full. Since it is a cardinal belief of the deplores of commercialization that the philistines are partial to inferior works by big-name painters, the museums have an opportunity for aesthetic arbitrage.

Third, if museum trustees really believe that great paintings are insanely overvalued financially — but undervalued aesthetically — they may want to consider selling off their inventory and not replacing it. If you would not pay \$50 million for a Van Gogh, why should you keep a Van Gogh for which you could get \$50 million? Why not sell it and use the money for the homeless, or art education, or some other worthy cause?

Edward Banfield, a Harvard political scientist, proposed several years ago that museums free themselves from the cult of the original and replace their paintings with high-quality reproductions. He argued that a good fake has almost all of a painting's aesthetic value, yet costs a minute fraction of the original because it lacks the investment value. If it is investment values (in both senses: the financial value of paintings and the spiritual values of the financial world) that threaten museums today, Banfield's solution seems even more tempting. Time reported that the canvas on tour in Australia representing itself as Van Gogh's "Irises" may actually be a copy. This reinforces Banfield's contention that the difference between real and fake is not even in the eye of the beholder.

It ill behoves Americans to fret that we are losing great European paintings to the Japanese. How did we get them? As Gramp points out, works of art have been moving west "for millennia", from the Middle East to Greece and Rome in ancient times; from Italy to northern Europe; in the 19th century from Europe to the American East Coast; more recently across America to Texas and California; and now to Japan.

Some day, Gramp predicts, they will all end up where they started. All the more reason for museums to think of their collections as assets to be used shrewdly, rather than as sacrosanct national treasures. The author is senior editor of *The New Republic*.

A brandy, please—and stretcher



MATTHEW PARRIS

But how many more of these replies might there be, tucked, forgotten, into unused drawers, ticking quietly away? You see, this is not the first. Back in 1979 I wrote "on Mrs

Thatcher's behalf" to an angry lady. Her letter complained about immigrants, noisy Down's Syndrome children, and the thin walls of her council house. Her letter lacked charm but I do see, now, that it was unwise to state on Mrs Thatcher's headed notepaper that people in council houses should be grateful to have a roof over their heads provided at the taxpayers' expense.

Weeks later, as the 1979 election loomed, the *Daily Mirror* printed my letter as a "front page exclusive". Next, the Labour Party printed three million copies of the letter, in leaflet form, to be distributed nationally to council tenants. "The Letter that let the

Tory Cat out of the Bag", it was called. By a twist of fate, the lorryload of leaflets was delivered to Conservative Central Office because the driver had seen Mrs Thatcher's letterhead on the leaflets, and assumed they must be for the Tories. CCO took a look then sent them over to Transport House.

Have you ever been called into Mrs Thatcher's office for a ticking off? No? For me the experience still burns in the memory.

She has never been anything but kind to me and she comes out of this pretty well. It's just that I could tell she thought me completely mad. Probably still does. She looked at me, head slightly on

one side, with an expression that said: "There's something not quite right about that boy." Her tone confirmed it. "Nanny is not", it implied, "going to shout. Nanny is not even going to raise her voice. Nanny is just very, very sad." "Why, Matthew?" she said. "Why?"

Her private secretary gave me a stiff brandy afterwards. Yesterday I had to make do with a cup of tea, provided by the *Guardian* sketchwriter. "Are there more of these letters?" he asked, gingerly. Who knows? Is there perhaps a night on a moonless March equinox when all the unshrive Ripper, and all the latently lethal letters we ever wrote, turn pale luminous green, slide noiselessly from forgotten cupboards and fly towards some nameless Welsh mountaintop, to dance?

SUNDAY'S TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

Out of the Fry pan

Peter Waymark

A new Screen Two season on BBC2 opens with *Old Flames* (10.15pm), a rum piece by Simon Gray about a barrister (Stephen Fry) persecuted for his discreditable past. Produced by Kenneth Trodd and directed by Christopher Morahan, the team that brought us *Gray's After Pilkington*, *Old Flames* is billed as a comedy. But anyone who knows Gray and his work will be warned. Though it contains many of the elements of farce (misunderstandings, mistaken identities, frantic chases) we are a long way from the world of Ray Cooney. Where we are is difficult to say without giving the game away. But the trigger is the apparently chance encounter at a cricket match between the Fry character and an old school contemporary, played in flamboyant style by Simon Callow. There follows a hectic story of murder and blackmail which has Fry scuttling about trying to preserve his name and his career and keep sweet with his wife who is about to present him with twins. Miriam Margulies provides delicious support as Callow's manipulating sister.



Stephen Fry and Hetta Byrnes: as the barrister and his wife (BBC2, 10.15pm)

RADIO CHOICE

Peter Davalle

Balanced argument, not always possible to achieve in the informal chats we have come to expect from *Down Year Way* (Radio 4, LW, 5.00pm), presents itself with almost precision in today's edition. Talking to a venerable Fort William inhabitant, the chirpy television presenter Muriel Gray, an otherwise well-informed Scot, puts down Sky Television as "not real television." Venerable inhabitant retaliates with his verdict that there isn't anything exciting on BBC Television. One all. End of match. Elsewhere tonight, Miss Gray shows more doggedness. Assured that a new ski development at Anock Mor is financially so well secured that it could survive three snowless seasons, she none the less turns her face to the mountains and cries out: "Snow! Go out Snow!"

RADIO 1

Full Stereo and MW News on the half-hour from 5.30pm until 12.30pm, then at 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm. 5.00pm Tim Smith 7.00 Bruno Brookes' Breakfast Show with Liz Kershaw 8.30 Dave Lee Travis 12.30pm Pick of the Pops: Alan Freeman with the week's Top 20 charts of 1989, 1984 and 1986 1.00pm Scruples 1.10pm by Simon Mayo 3.30 Philip Schofield 5.00pm Top 40 with Bruno Brookes 7.00 Anne Nightingale's Request Show 8.00 Andy Kershaw 11.00-12.00am Bob Harris on Sunday

RADIO 2

Full Stereo and MW 4.00pm David Bussay 6.00 Graham Knight 7.30 Good Morning Sunday 9.00 Melodics for You 11.00 Your Radio 2 All-Time Greatest 3.00 Dave Lee Travis 3.30 Sounds Easy 4.00 Black Magic 4.30 Sing Something Simple 5.00 Charts 5.15 Liz Kershaw 6.30 Sunday Half-Hour 8.00 Your Hundred Best Tunes 10.00 Songs from the Shows 10.45 Angela Browning 11.00 Sounds of Jazz 1.00am Nightbirds 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather and News Headlines 7.00am Journal and Places: William Williams (in the Pan Country: New Philharmonic Orchestra under Adrian Boult) 7.15am Italian: Dantes SO under Eduardo Mata 7.30am News 7.35am Helix and Friends: the second of six programmes. Dvorak (Piano Trio in F minor; Violin Concerto in A minor; Piano Concerto in G minor; Leonard Pennario, piano; Arthur Benjamin (Romantic fantasy for violin, viola and orchestra; RCA Victor Orchestra under Izler Solomon) 8.30am News 8.35am Your Concert Choice: Haydn (Symphony No 35 in B flat; L'Estro Armonico under Derek Salkeld); Mendelssohn (Concerto in D; ECO under Jean-Pierre Rampal); Beethoven (Sonata in C, Op 2 No 3; Daniel Barenboim, piano); Rossini (String Sonata No 2 in A; I Musici); Mozart (Concerto Mass: Bavarian RSO under Eugen Jochum; Bavarian Radio Chorus, with Edith Moser, soprano, Julia Hamari, mezzo-soprano, Nicolai Gedda, tenor) 10.30am Music Weekly with Michael O'Brien, Turn of the Decades - Julian Connolly welcomes the Nineties. The Lance Has Not Yet Landed - The legacy of Erik Satie is discussed by Christopher Hobbs. Extending the Cantorial Tradition - The career of Salomon Sutro (d. January 17, 1880) is reflected on by Ed At 11.15am BBC Philharmonic under Edward Downes, with Pascal Devoyon, piano, performs Dvorak (Scherzo capriccioso); Ravel (Concerto for piano, left hand, and orchestra; Sibelius (Symphony No 7 in C) 12.15am Schubert: Peter Frankl, piano, György Pauk, violin, Ralph Kohnstamm, perform Piano Trio in E flat, D 929 1.15am Mary, Queen of Scots: Emma Kirkby, soprano, Anthony Riggall, piano, performs a programme of works recalling her French upbringing and her time in Scotland. With music of Scottish origin and works by Scriabin and Byrd, finishing with a commemorative lament by Giacomo Carissimi (in

2.00 Rubinstein on Record: Graham Streight introduces the first of 12 programmes. Anton Rubinstein (Valse capriccio in E flat; Chopin (Scherzo No 2 in B flat; Liszt (G. Op 37 No 2; in C minor, Op 48 No 1); Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat; first movement, excerpt; LSO under Albert Coates; Piano Concerto No 1 in D minor; Chicago SO under Fritz Reiner; Albiniz (Evocacion; Navarra) (r) 3.30 Moscow String Quartet, with Eugenia Adzhifanova, violin, Valentina Aytova, violin, Tatiana Kotchenovskaya, viola, Olga Ogranovitch, cello, performs Tchaikovsky (Quartet No 3 in E flat minor, Op 30); Schnittke (Canon in memoriam Stravinsky) 4.30 Heinrich Schubertside 1989: Robert Holl, bass, Konrad Richter, piano, perform the second in a series of Schubert song recitals, with programmes arranged by opus number 6.15am Baroque in the Labyrinth: Written and presented by Graham Fawcett and Luciano Barro 7.15am Berlioz: Music by Bocherini, Mahler and Purcell heralds this evening's concert at the Barbican 7.30am Baroque at the Barbican (new series): The commencement of the BBC's four-day festival of music by the Italian composer, marking his 65th birthday year. BBC Symphony Orchestra under Luciano Barro performs Quattro versioni originali della "Missa di Madrid" di Luigi Boccherini, 1775; Ritorno degli svedesi, 1776, for cello and orchestra; Corale, 1881, for violin solo, two horns and strings; 8.30am Jeremy Beadle commences the third movement of Baroque's Sinfonia 6.40 Sinfonia, 1988/81, for eight amplified voices and orchestra 9.30am Schubert: The Salomon String Quartet performs: Quartet No 1 in C; No 3 in A 10.05am Third Ear: Robert Hewison on a current issue (r) 10.30am Choral Evensong: Recorded in Lichfield Cathedral 11.30am Cashe Erdelyi, viola (Chaconne, from Paritta, BWV 1004); Hindemith (Sonata for viola solo, Op 25 No 1) (r) 12.00am News 12.05am Close

WORLD SERVICE

5.00am German Festivals 5.35am News in German: Headlines in English and French 5.50am French Review 5.55am Weather and Travel News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 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Evered expands quarry output with £141m buys

By Jeremy Andrews

Evered is to spend £141 million on acquisitions in Britain and the US, increasing its output of quarry materials by a half.

Civil and Marine Holdings, which operates dredgers and imports slag from the Continent, will cost £113 million, while Millville, which operates a limestone quarry near Washington DC, has been bought for \$46.5 million (£28.2 million).

All but £9 million of the total acquisition cost will be paid in cash. Evered plans to raise £30 million from a preference issue, provided shareholders approve. The company does not see any problems with this, even

though 71 per cent of its £68 million rights issue in September was left with the underwriters.

The shares fell 9p to 137p on news of the acquisitions. Analysts attributed the drop to the apparent risk that Evered's earnings per share would be diluted in view of the high purchase prices.

Civil and Marine made £6.1 million profits in the year to last March, implying an earnings multiple of 28, while Millville appears to be costing 22 times earnings given its pre-interest profits of \$3.5 million (£2.1 million) in the same period.

None the less, Mr Mike Wallis, Evered's managing

director, said there would be no dilution this year because the historic published figures for the two acquisitions provided a poor guide to their profitability.

Civil and Marine has invested more than £20 million on ships and plant in the past two years, which was only starting to contribute fully, while Millville had sought to minimize its tax liability rather than to maximize profits.

Civil and Marine operates three ocean-going dredgers from licensed grounds in the southern North Sea and English Channel, which land aggregates at depots on the Thames and in Belgium. The

company also owns a bulk carrier which imports blast furnace slag from steel mills in France and Belgium for cement manufacture.

Millville operates a quarry 40 miles from Washington with limestone reserves of 650 million tons.

Mr Wallis said that as CSR recently paid Hanson £650 million for ARC's US quarries, with reserves of 1.5 billion tons, the price Evered paid was reasonable. The company intended to revalue Millville's reserves and as a result Evered's balance sheet gearing would be down to about 50 per cent by the end of 1990, assuming the preference issue went ahead as planned.

Friday 13th part II: A horror story that has failed to happen

One of the most intelligent and perceptive market-makers I know wryly observed this week that he no longer knew whether we were in a bull market or a bear market or betwixt and between. These familiar terms, temporarily at least, have been dropped by the gurus and clairvoyants who have taken refuge in global strategy and sector analysis. I cannot say I blame them.

On the face of it October 19, 1987 - Black Monday - ought to have signalled the end of the great 1980s bull market. Wall Street and the Dow Jones Industrial Average had gone from 759 early in 1980 to 2,700 on the eve of the 1987 crash. The first leg of the new bear market, though short and unshapely, divided the experts between second leg men and unrepentant bulls. Is the recovery, which lifted the Dow 48 per cent between Black Monday and October 12, 1989 - the day before New York's sudden collapse on Grey Friday - and has sustained the market since, really a (protracted) bullish phase in a bear market, though it may not be visible to the naked eye, is lurking just below the surface? It is a sterile argument.

The tremor in 1987 and the blip last October did not change the upward trend in the world's stock markets. Britain emerged from recession in 1981 and proceeded to enjoy eight years of uninterrupted growth. Reflecting rapidly rising company profits and unfettered dividend increases, the FT Actuaries All Share Index, having risen 32 per cent in 1989, is five times higher than it was at the beginning of January 1980. The big question is: where next?

I think, by the way, that it is right to look at sectors of the market and also at markets in different countries. There is now a huge global market in the leading stocks of each country with an organized stock market. The huge weight of institutional money constantly building up in the United States, Japan, Britain and western Europe is finding outlets in these "international equities." Turnover is estimated to have gone up from \$140 billion (£84.2 billion) to \$1,375 billion in 10 years. Global share buying on this scale is both a price support and a source of weakness in a particular market should disengagement set in. The support becomes more significant than the threat as fund managers take a longer view of the shares they hold.

The global market also requires a different and faster response to seismic shifts in share prices from Treasury ministers and central bank governors. Wall Street's fall on Grey Friday (October 13) prompted a remarkably swift and successful effort by Mr Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, to maintain confidence in the market. He transmitted the



KENNETH FLEET

message to Wall Street and the world that the Fed would make available cash and credit to save any major institution from being crushed by the fall. On Monday the Dow closed 88 points higher at 2,657 and the world had been saved for capitalism. With the Japanese well-practised in managing the Tokyo market, the global market is a safer place for bulls.

The new year opened with a strong whiff of bullishness, but that is not unusual. The bull points are numerous. Investment institutions make up their figures at the year-end and they are looking to add gloss to their performance. The spate of buy recommendations (sell tips are against the spirit of the season) stimulate interest and activity especially among private investors. The water issues had created an element of euphoria. There is an all-round reluctance to sell shares and hence a shortage of stock available in the market. Market-makers run tight books and if they are squeezed prices jump disproportionately.

The tide of money flowing toward the institutions is high, and rights issues, apart from Ferranti's call yesterday for £187 million, are still conspicuous by their absence. Takeover activity which has been a powerful factor in bolstering share prices is unlikely to diminish. The structure of the London market and its efficiency will be improved by changes now pending.

Measured by conventional yardsticks, while not cheap, the equity market and many of its constituents are not wildly expensive. Although it will not happen before the autumn, privatization of the electricity distribution companies (the 12 area boards) is something to look forward to. There are limitations on the Government's ability to influence a market but it did a remarkable job holding the line in the weeks leading to the water sale. So you might fairly ask, where is the snag? Why is a mist clouding the market?

There are two major factors. One is the pressure on President Gorbachev resulting from aspirations of republics within the Soviet Union. If he fails to deal with them satisfactorily and peacefully, a successor might resort to more traditional Communist methods. A reactionary regime in Moscow would threaten the economic revival of Eastern Europe - a great potential market for the 1990s. The atmosphere would turn distinctly colder. Economically,

Gorbachev's fall might have a serious impact on Japan where the market is sensitive to the country's emerging political power, rising interest rates, rising inflation and a weaker yen.

The undercurrent of caution also reflects the domestic economic outlook. Economic forecasts, of which there are scores, vary in the severity of their numbers. Some still expect a soft landing and fair growth. But they are consistent in two respects. Company profits and dividends will not rise as fast as they have done in recent years, though companies with substantial overseas earnings will benefit from the devaluation of sterling (almost 17 per cent against the West German mark and 11 per cent against the US dollar in 1989). And nothing on the economic front this year is expected to send the Government's opinion poll ratings through the roof. (Next year could be different if the Chancellor does his stuff and the Tories do not lose their nerve.)

Paradoxically, the stock market has been held up by the fall in the pound, which takes the heat off many big companies, and what it perceives to be a softer line on both interest rates (not putting them up) and inflation. Base rates are unlikely to go up, though the Bank of England might argue that they should. Provided they do not come down sterling should begin to hold its present ground. All bets, however, are off if the trend of inflation is not down from here on in. Foreign holders of gilts and sterling will be the first to vote with their feet, because if this Government does not get inflation down, in their view, the administration will fall and pave the way for something much worse.

The Ford settlement is allegedly a bad precedent and an ill omen. This is misguided. We are seeing the emergence of the European company, in which pay (and productivity) will merge in a uniform scale. Meanwhile Ford has a difficult choice. A prolonged strike is more costly than the extra it might take to settle. The Government knows how to bring down inflation and alone has the power to do it.

The London equity market will be unsettled at least until the Budget. It will be dominated by politics, international as well as national. It will not run away from you. Hence there is no compelling need "to buy the market" at this level. It may go up but it will also fall back again.

But unless the world goes mad, equities are good to have and to hold, and it is no fun doing nothing. No special situations here (they will come later) but good value in: GEC, Simon Engineering, BP, Lloyds Bank, Granada and BTR. Williams is spicier and Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust secure.

Diamond director 'asked to resign'

By Melinda Wittstock

Diamond Group Holdings, the Glasgow insurance broker which joined the USM in April only to have its shares suspended in October before a massive maiden interim loss, has asked its finance director to resign just weeks before the results of investigations into its troubles by two accountants are to be revealed.

Allied Provincial Corporate Services, the merchant banking division of Allied Provincial, the Scottish stockbroker which sponsored the USM placing, has also resigned as Diamond's financial adviser, but will continue as its broker.

Diamond, which in October blamed "problems in the administration and claims handling" of its mechanical breakdown insurance business in Yorkshire, yesterday blamed the loss on an unexpectedly high level of claims and operating costs because of mismanagement over two years.

But Mr Derek Diamond, the chairman who becomes chief executive after the resignation yesterday of co-founder Mr Clive Miller due to ill health, denied any wrongdoing to his knowledge and insisted that no policyholders were at risk.

Mr Diamond said all policies were underwritten by Lloyd's of London, and denied that any had been cancelled after commissions were paid to Lloyd's brokers.

He said Mr Ian King's resignation as finance director was linked to the troubles, first discovered in July with a flood of heavy claims.

But leading shareholders in Diamond, including MIM Development Capital, a wing of Britannia Arrow with 25.54 per cent, plus other institutional clients of Allied Provincial, believe they will not hear the full story until the inquiry results are revealed.

The report by Arthur Andersen, Diamond's auditor, is with Mr Diamond, but institutional investors are awaiting the report by Touche Ross's insolvency department, called in by Allied Provincial.

Though one source close to the company said it needed more facts before it could establish whether due diligence at the time of the placing was carried out properly, Allied Provincial insisted it was. "If we had seen any problems, the placing would have been pulled," said Mrs Elizabeth Kennedy, a director of Allied Provincial Corporate Services. She said APC had resigned because of possible accusations of conflict of interest over Diamond's sale of its mechanical breakdown insurance businesses to LPH.

Mr Diamond, who has lost more than £1 million on his 20 per cent stake in Diamond, said shareholders could not expect the interim results until next month. He has asked for Stock Exchange permission to report final results for the year to end-December instead. The interim loss is believed to be more than 1988's £1.23 million pre-tax profit.

Rivals eye Bond brewers

By James Bone and Stephen Leather

John Labatt, the biggest brewer in Canada, is considering bidding between Aus\$1.6 billion (£762 million) and Aus\$2 billion for the Australian brewing operations of Mr Alan Bond, the troubled tycoon.

Mr Edward Stewart, Labatt's vice-president for corporate affairs, said that the valuation is based on the "most preliminary" examination of Bond Corporation Holdings' operations and that Labatt's financial analysts are at work in Australia. Any bid is "a good number of weeks away at best," he said.

But Lion Nathan, the New Zealand brewer, believes it has first claim, even though its Aus\$2.5 billion deal last year to buy a half-share of the assets in a joint venture with a Bond company could not be completed.

Mr Doug Myers, the chief executive, said that Lion still wants all Bond's Australian beer assets.

"We are not interested in the breakup of the breweries," he said. "We never had been. We're still very interested in getting the lot."

In Queensland two local groups want to pick up just one of the breweries, Castlemaine Perkins, and there are reports of a third bidder in the wings.

Mr Bond's brewing operations were placed in receivership by an Australian court on December 29, at the request of a syndicate of Australian and international banks.

His court battle to overturn the appointment of receiver-managers to the breweries has lasted nine days and is expected to continue into next week.

FAI Insurance has bought the mining assets of Bond Corporation Holdings for Aus\$198.75 million.



Riding the storm: Alan Bond takes exercise near Perth

Albert Fisher set for stormy EGM

By Gillian Bowditch

Albert Fisher, the food distribution group, is set to have a lively extraordinary meeting on Monday after institutional concerns about its proposed £180 million rights issue and new US equity partner, Corporate Partners (CP), forced it to change the terms of its deal.

Under the original terms, CP could have gained a maximum stake of 28.75 per cent and would have been entitled to at least one board seat and two if its stake went above 15 per cent. The rights issue is at 110p a share, compared with the market price of 124p.

Institutions are concerned that CP has been given the chance to build up a sizeable stake at a discount to the market and that non-executive directors are being appointed as part of a financial package rather than on their individual merits.

Mr Tony Millar, Fisher's chairman, who said last month that institutions were happy with the terms, was abroad yesterday and unavailable for comment. He has changed one aspect of the deal.



Millar: deal partly altered

Fisher has agreed to waive CP's right to a board seat at the group's EGM on Monday. Any board appointments will require a separate EGM.

Fisher said any institutions worried about CP gaining a sizeable stake without paying a premium for it could ensure this did not happen by taking up all of their rights. If shareholders do this, CP's stake will be only 5 per cent.

CP has an agreement with Fisher that it is allowed to increase its stake to 20 per cent by purchasing shares in the market.

Whirlpool in £66m Euro drive

By Derek Harris

Whirlpool, the north American manufacturer of large domestic electrical appliances which vies with Sweden's Electrolux to be the world's biggest producer of such white goods, is planning to spend \$110 million (£66 million) promoting its brand in Europe.

The company will spread its spending, claimed to be a record for the industry, over several years, with the main thrust in television commercials which start in Britain next month. It will be a key step towards creating a global white goods brand.

In Europe it will mean a re-branding of washing machines, refrigerators and other kitchen equipment sold under the label of Philips, the Dutch multinational, which sold off 53 per cent of its white goods operation to Whirlpool a year ago. Manufacturing takes place in Europe. From next month, the new range will be marketed under the combined Philips and Whirlpool brandnames.

Buyers roll in for BAT's American stores chains

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

BAT Industries has received about six serious inquiries for each of its two US stores chains, Saks Fifth Avenue and Marshall Fields, a company spokesman said yesterday.

Both companies, together with BAT's smaller Carolina-based store chain, Ivey's, and its Californian home furnishings chain, Brenners, were put up for sale as a key plank in BAT's defence against the £13.5 billion bid from Hoylake Investments led by Sir James Goldsmith.

Information on the four retail chains will be dispatched to potential buyers in the first week of February. "The disposal timetable re-

mains on course," the spokesman confirmed.

Among the potential bidders for the 15-strong Chicago-based Marshall Fields chain is the St Louis-based May Department Stores Co, which is keen to expand its department store operation. It sees Marshall Fields - and "several Campeau Corp chains" - as an "attractive possibility". Campeau's Bloomingdale's chain is for sale.

Mr Philip Miller, chairman of Marshall Fields, is reported to be working on what would be a management buyout bid for Fields. Analysts estimate Fields could fetch as much as

\$1 billion. Information had not been distributed earlier so details of Christmas trading could be included, the BAT spokesman said. "Business was not as bad as some had feared," he added.

BAT expects to complete the sale of all four businesses for between \$1.5 and \$2.5 billion by the end of June.

In a further attempt to reassure its creditors and vendors, Campeau has announced a management reorganization. The Toronto-based group revealed that its American operations would be overseen by a new board, the majority of whose members would be American.

Hanson 'could afford to bid'

By Our City Staff

A rival bid for BAT Industries would not be beyond the financial reach of Hanson, the company confirmed yesterday.

Speaking in Paris, Mr Derek Bonham, the Hanson finance director, said Hanson could fund acquisitions of up to £15 billion.

Interest in Hanson's acquisition plans was aroused at the annual meeting this week when Lord Hanson, the chairman, forecast a dividend increase of more than 20 per cent in 1990.

This is a move designed to persuade the company's £1 billion convertible stockholders to convert their holdings into equity next month.

This will revitalize the balance sheet, considerably en-

hancing the size of the Hanson war chest.

There has been speculation that it could launch a rival offer for the £13.5 billion lapsed bid from Hoylake, Sir James Goldsmith's bid vehicle, and even that it might make an approach for ICI.

Mr Martin Taylor, Hanson's vice-chairman, told the Paris audience yesterday that the group would prefer to continue to focus activities in the United States and British markets.

But he added: "When the European Community's takeover code is in place, we will look more intently at opportunities in (Continental) Europe."

However, neither he nor Mr Bonham, speaking at a news

conference which followed an investors' meeting, gave any indication of the group's current investment plans.

Mr Bonham said full conversion of Hanson's convertible stock next month, together with cash raised from the sales of some Consolidated Gold Fields assets, would bring its net cash position to £791 million.

This compares with the situation in September 1989, when it had net debt of £849 million.

Existing borrowing capacity, calculated at 2.5 times shareholders' funds, including goodwill, would bring its buying power up to the total £15 billion, Mr Bonham said.

The company's shares closed 4p lower at 233.5p.

Accused in City fraud remanded

Ten men, a woman and three companies charged in connection with the £377 million Blue Arrow affair, were remanded in their absence until March 2 at Guildhall Justices Rooms yesterday.

They were: County NatWest, the merchant banking arm of NatWest; NatWest Investment Bank; and UBS Phillips and Drew, the stockbrokers; Mr Charles Villiers, former chairman at County; and Mr Jonathan Cohen, its former chief executive; and Mr Timothy Brown, P&D managing director.

Other defendants are Mr Nicholas Wells, Mr David Reed, and Miss Elizabeth Brimelow, all former County directors; Mr Stephen Clark, County finance director; Mr Alan Keat, former legal advisor to County; Mr Paul Smallwood, a P&D director; and Mr Christopher Stainforth and Mr Martin Gibbs, both formerly of P&D.

NI £450m loan

News International, which published *The Times*, has arranged a \$750 million (£450 million) short-term borrowing facility, guaranteed by The News Corporation, its parent, to finance partly its share of the \$455 million purchase of Scott-Foresman, the US educational publishers, by Harper & Collins, its half-owned book publishing joint venture.

Cowan profits

Cowan de Groot, the kitchen hardware and toy distributor, reported pre-tax profits of £1.15 million for its half-year to October. In the same period last year it made £1.36 million, including an exceptional credit of £326,000 from a disposal. The interim dividend is unchanged at 1.25p.

Archives up

Security Archives (Holdings) lifted profits £414,000 to £437,000 in the six months to end-September, on turnover of £2.36 million (£1.68 million). Eps are 5.7p (4.8p) and the interim dividend is 2.5p (2p).

Morgan down

Profits at de Morgan, fell £976,000 to £150,000 in the half-year to October despite turnover up 22 per cent to £2.7 million. The interim dividend rises to 1.375p (1.25p).

Geevor passes

Geevor turned a £260,000 loss into £26,000 profit in the half-year to September on turnover of £2.5 million (£1.2 million). There is again no dividend.

Dentists follow the Russian bears in turning bullish over bullion

Gold market gurus go long in the tooth

By Colin Campbell
Mining Correspondent

Gold is on the rise and Californian dentists and doctors, and some of their British counterparts in Knightsbridge and Harley Street, are back on the telephone asking the world's bullion houses "Is it all true?"

The question follows forecasts that the yellow metal is headed for \$1,000 an ounce - a thought proffered by gold guru Miss Rhona O'Connell, of Shearson Lehman Hutton, who in a semi-light-hearted article "looks back" from the threshold of the year 2000 at gold's performance in the 1990s. Her case rests on the prediction of "periods of panic" in the 1990s which she "predicts" took gold, albeit very briefly, to the \$1,000 mark "after

the oil market supply crunch mid-decade and the inflationary period that followed."

The London gold price yesterday was up \$1.40 at \$413.90 - and looking good. The perceived wisdom was that "the Russians are buying" which was all the dentists needed to hear to convince themselves that they should reach for the phone.

Then the computers were fed the latest price trends triggering off fresh buy signals, and by the time night had fallen in California and dawn broke in the Far East, the whisper had gone round the world.

Yesterday, even the sceptics were hard pressed to find anybody prepared to talk the gold price down. The consensus was that while a \$1,000 ounce gold price by the mid-1990s

may at this point look fanciful, a trot to \$450, if not \$500 "fairly soon," is looking distinctly likely.

The simple-minded prefer to rely on the "more buyers than sellers" line at dinner parties to explain why gold should go up. But the latest wisdom is that the "Russian factor" is behind the recent surge, stemming in turn from general population disturbances in Eastern Europe.

There are as many fanciful theories about what moves gold as they there are forecasts.

Mr Julian Baring, of James Capel, was not only the creator of "the dinner at the Savoy" theory, which explains how many ounces of gold you need to dine, but also of the early 1980s theory that which equated the bullion price with the queues of Chinese at the gold

shops in Bangkok. He once saw them five deep.

Mr Baring is not entirely thrown by the \$1,000 an ounce thought - the improvement from the bottom of a bear market to the top of a bull market in gold has never been less than 75 per cent, he says. So since gold was thought to have bottomed last September at \$356.50, and since it has only risen by 15.6 per cent, ergo, it has further to go.

The dentists and doctors brigade should be taken seriously, bullion traders said yesterday, because they follow the professionals. The chartists follow the dentists, and the public follow the chartists.

Meanwhile, the phone lines are still busy around the world with the question "Is it all true?"

'No evidence MFA has protected jobs'

By Our City Staff

Taxes on imported clothes from developing countries have done nothing to protect the British textiles industry, Mr John Redwood, junior trade and industry minister, told the Commons yesterday.

In a debate on the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, a complex system of import tariffs, he said higher productivity was the key to success.

"There is no evidence that the MFA has protected employment successfully."

If the MFA agreement was to be phased out after it expired in 1991, there would have to be adequate transi-

tional arrangements, said Mr Redwood.

For the Opposition, Mr Doug Henderson said that in the 11 months to November almost one fifth of Britain's manufacturing trade deficit had been in textiles.

"Economic instability in this country has undermined attempts to restructure. It is essential that Britain takes the lead in the EC in firm negotiations to renew the MFA after its expiry in 1991 and to tighten up import quotas."

"Otherwise imports will continue to have a devastating effect on the industry."

At first sight it's changed not a jot. But just wait until you put your foot down.

For a start, there's a new 3.9 litre engine which can accelerate from 0-60 in under 10 seconds.*

And then can reach a top speed of 111 mph* on the motorway. (Sorry, autobahn.)

To stop it, our engineers have developed the most advanced braking system in the world.

Their electronic 4-channel design prevents wheel-

lock in any conditions and on any combination of surfaces.

A standard fixture on the Vogue SE, it's an optional (but very desirable) extra throughout the rest of the range.

This includes the Turbo Diesel version which now has a 2.5 litre engine for better performance and greater pulling power.

Environmentally, the new Range Rover is also friendlier.

We've made the exhaust quieter and more efficient.

The brake pads are asbestos-free, and there's the

choice of a 3-way catalytic converter. While naturally, it's able to run on unleaded fuel.

Inside, the Vogue SE exudes air-conditioned luxury. The fascia's covered with burr walnut; the seats, which adjust eight different ways, in Connolly leather. But to really appreciate the Range Rover you have to drive one yourself.

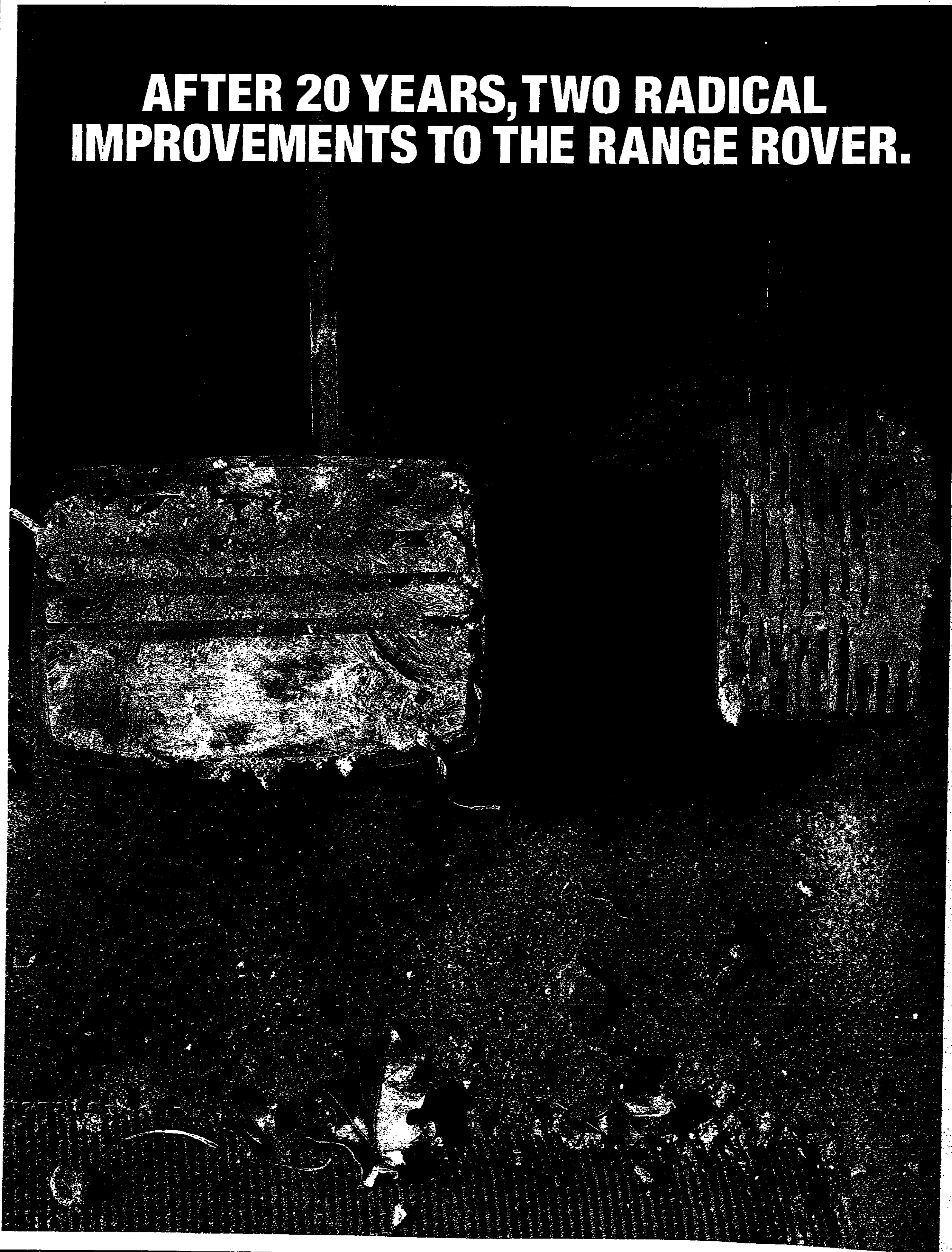
Even after 20 years, it's still quite unlike any other

vehicle on the road. Or off it. **THE BEST 4x4xFAR.**

RANGE ROVER.

LAND-ROVER

AFTER 20 YEARS, TWO RADICAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE RANGE ROVER.



RANGE ROVER PRICES START AT £22,794 AND GO UP TO £23,494 FOR THE VOGUE SE. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. INCLUDE CAR TAX AND VPE, BUT NOT DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES. A 3-WAY CATALYTIC CONVERTER IS AVAILABLE AS AN OPTION ON ALL PETROL MODELS. ALL PETROL MODELS CAN RUN ON UNLEADED FUEL WITH NO MODIFICATION REQUIRED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEALER. *WHEN PERMITTED. MANUFACTURER'S DATA.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Heavy falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 27. Dealings ended yesterday. \$Contango day January 15. Settlement day January 22.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your right share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Hunters	Paper, Print, Adv	
2	Amalgamated	Building, Roads	
3	Nairn & Peacock	Food	
4	Tramcar	Motors, Aircraft	
5	Asa & Lacy	Industrials A-D	
6	Weston	Industrials S-Z	
7	Consett	Property	
8	Kelley Ind	Industrials E-K	
9	Frederick GAW	Industrials E-K	
10	Harland	Industrials S-Z	
11	Scott & Robertson	Industrials S-Z	
12	Hawthorn	Property	
13	TNT	Industrials S-Z	
14	Net Asset Ltd	Bank, Discount	
15	Miles	Industrials L-R	
16	Scargood	Industrials S-Z	
17	Gr Western Res	Oil, Gas	
18	Cay Elect	Electricals	
19	Day Motors	Motors, Aircraft	
20	Gashell	Textiles	
21	Wessex	Bank, Discount	
22	SA Breweries	Breweries	
23	Holstons Op	Electricals	
24	Hammam	Food	
25	Admiral Comp	Electricals	
26	Independent	Newspaper, Pub	
27	Consett (a)	Industrials E-K	
28	Garage	Property	
29	Part Foods	Food	
30	Glebe	Industrials E-K	
31	Brewer	Dairy, Sweets	
32	Am New Z	Bank, Discount	
33	Rechem	Industrials L-R	
34	Walker, Greenbank	Industrials S-Z	
35	Assoc Paper	Paper, Print, Adv	
36	Scientific Specimen	Chemicals, Plastics	
37	Johnstone Press	Newspaper, Pub	
38	Plaxton Group	Motors, Aircraft	
39	Shahin	Industrials S-Z	
40	Warrist	Bank, Discount	
41	Warrist	Building, Roads	
42	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
43	LWT CP	Leisure	
44	Mico Focus	Electricals	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
1	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
2	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
3	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
4	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
5	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
6	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
7	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
8	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
9	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
10	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
1	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
2	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
3	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
4	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
5	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
6	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
7	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
8	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
9	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
10	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
1	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
2	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
3	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
4	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
5	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
6	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
7	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
8	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
9	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
10	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
1	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
2	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
3	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
4	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
5	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
6	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
7	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
8	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
9	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
10	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00

UNDATED

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
1	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
2	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
3	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
4	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
5	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
6	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
7	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
8	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
9	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
10	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00

INDEX-LINKED

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
1	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
2	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
3	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
4	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
5	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
6	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
7	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
8	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
9	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
10	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
1	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
2	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
3	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
4	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
5	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
6	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
7	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
8	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
9	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
10	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00

BREWERIES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
1	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
2	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
3	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
4	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
5	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
6	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
7	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
8	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
9	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
10	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00

BUILDING, ROADS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
1	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
2	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
3	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
4	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
5	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
6	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
7	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
8	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
9	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
10	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00

FINANCE, LAND

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Div	Yield
1	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
2	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
3	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
4	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
5	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
6	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
7	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
8	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
9	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00
10	100.00	99.00	British	100.00	-0.50	-0.5	5.00	5.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

84	100	British	100	-1	11.5	6.1	11.5
85	112	Shell Chem	133	137	-1	8.1	8.1
86	112	Shell	133	137	-1	8.1	8.1
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FAMILY MONEY

Janet Walford explains the latest development on policy charges

SIB rules simplify life insurance statements

In the past it has been very difficult for the average person to tell just how much of his or her savings in a life policy had been removed in insurance company charges. This has made many wary of being "ripped off" by spurious claims. But new rules coming soon will tell exactly how much of money is being deducted.

The Securities & Investments Board (SIB), which governs the sale of all types of savings and investment plans, has been considering various methods of comparing charges and has come up with a simple solution. From April, all life and pensions policies will have to show what their charges cost as a percentage reduction in the rate of investment return. This is called a reduction in yield.

It applies to all policies offering a savings element, such as the safe, conventional "with profits" plans - as well as to the more risky but potentially more rewarding "unit-linked" plans, where the

value of the plan is combined directly to the units of an underlying fund which the client chooses. Unit-linked plans have always stated their charges in their brochures but they can be fiendishly complicated to understand. For example, some companies offer to invest 105 per cent of a client's money. If this sounds too good to be true, it is. Life companies are not charities. They can offer such incentives because they are taking out charges elsewhere. The new system should stop all this confusion.

For example, on the new basis, a person will be able to see that over a 10-year period, the effect of charges on the average life policy means a reduction in yield of only

about 2 per cent for males aged 30 to 50 years old. This compares with the charges made by building societies and of course life policies often offer better rates of return than building societies because of their investment performance, as well as providing life cover.

The only good way to make a comparison is to consult one of the definitive league and performance tables produced by the financial magazines. But these often run to many pages and may deal with hundreds of companies.

With the reduction in yield basis, however, all that is needed to be known is that one policy's charges amount to say, a 1.9 per cent reduction in growth over the term, while another's may be 0.9 per cent.

REGULAR PREMIUMS OF £1,000pa

	Lowest charges	Average charges	Highest charges
	Fund Yield Reduction	Fund Yield Reduction	Fund Yield Reduction
20yrs	£82,761 0.9%	£73,139 1.9%	£63,791 3.0%

Based on a male life retiring at exact pension age 65. Policy effected on 1 July 1989. Full commission payable to intermediaries where applicable. Gross growth rate 10% pa. Source: Money Management magazine, October 1989.

New system favours mature NS savings

From Monday, National Savings is making it easier to reinvest the money realized from cashing in matured savings certificates.

New forms in all post offices can be used by investors who want to transfer savings in the certificates or Yearly Plan, currently paying 5.01 per cent, to the department's Capital Bond, which guarantees payment of 12 per cent gross over five years.

A spokesman said the new form should speed up transfers so long as investors sent a Capital Bond application form with the repayment form. There is no limit on the

amount that can be invested in the Capital Bond, unlike the 34th Issue of National Savings Certificates, currently on sale, which is restricted to £1,000 of new money.

The bond was launched last January with the first interest being credited last week at 5.5 per cent. It is taxable and investors should declare the interest on their April tax returns.

The return on mature savings certificates is tax-free like the certificates themselves. In the three months to the end of November almost £1 billion worth of matured certificates were cashed in.

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BRIEFINGS

On Tuesday British Gas will send out bonus shares to its 1.5 million UK shareholders, who have held the shares since the flotation in December 1986 but who chose to receive the bonus instead of discount vouchers. One share will be issued for every 10 held with a total of 65.9 million being allocated. Shareholders should receive the certificates by January 20. Telephone enquiries to the registrar, National Westminster Bank, 0272 294188 or British Gas Shareholders' Inquiry office, 01-834 2000.

Barclays Bank is offering a share dealing service in British Gas shares at a special minimum commission rate of 12.50 per cent to coincide with the issue of the free shares. The service is open to customers and non-customers. The dealing rate over the minimum commission will be 1.25 per cent for the first £5,000, then 0.75 per cent for the next £10,000 and 0.5 per cent above that.

Manchester-based broker, Pilling and Co, has extended its special £7 commission offer for water shares until February 9. Members of one family living at the same address, can combine their holdings in the same water authority up to an additional three certificates for an extra £1 per certificate.

Friends Provident will introduce an ethical personal

equity plan on Monday. The plan, which is linked to the Stewardship Income Trust, will include a cash facility allowing investors to switch temporarily into cash without losing any tax advantage. It will also pay a tax-free income on a quarterly basis.

Ivory & Sims has increased the amount which personal equity plan holders can invest in their overseas investment trusts from £750 to £2,400 until the end of March. This follows the announcement by the Inland Revenue that PEP investors, who hold £2,400 of shares in an investment trust which invests more than 25 per cent of its portfolio outside the UK, will be able to retain the shares in the tax-free plans after April 6.

London-based insurance broker, Tolson Messenger, has launched a household insurance policy for security-conscious Londoners. Capital Cover is underwritten at Lloyds and can cut the cost of insurance by up to 40 per cent in some postal districts for home owners who have secure doors and windows and an alarm system. General contents cover of £50,000 will cost £450 compared with up to £860 with major insurance companies, says the broker.

The Principality Building Society has launched a fixed-rate mortgage at 12.98 per cent. The rate remains until the end of next year.

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2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Source: Planned Savings Data Services Group Weighted Performance rankings across the 40 largest unit trust groups to 1.1.90. Offer to Offer.

Fidelity has been managing unit trusts in the UK for just 10 years. In that time performance across our range of trusts, as measured by Planned Savings Data Services, a leading statistical authority, has consistently surpassed that of other major unit trust companies.

Quite simply, **Fidelity is the Unit Trust Group of the Decade.** It's not surprising. Over the last 10 years we've invested heavily in building our fund management and research operations all over the world. And in the '90s we will further increase investment in these areas so that we can continue to offer superior performance.

So start the new decade right - make your money work harder for you with Fidelity. Below we highlight a number of current investment opportunities:

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The Fidelity Personal Equity Plan invests in the decade's No.1 Unit Trust* - **Fidelity Special Situations Trust**. With an exceptional gain of 1,435.6% over 10 years, this Trust could produce substantial capital growth for you in the '90s - completely free of tax.

◆ Fidelity European Trust

The integration of European markets in 1992, combined with the effects of rapid changes in Eastern Europe, could make this the investment market for the early '90s. **Fidelity European Trust** is the No.1 European Trust over 1, 2, 3 and 4 years. Since its launch (4.11.85), it has produced a gain of 408.0% - and in the last 12 months it has increased 76.9%.

◆ Fidelity Japan Special Situations Trust

Still one of the world's strongest economies, Japan's growth is now domestically led with emphasis on consumer products, leisure, travel and the environment. By identifying stockpicking opportunities in under-researched and undervalued companies, **Fidelity Japan Special Situations Trust** has produced outstanding results. Since its launch (14.4.84), it is up 377.6% and in 1989 it gained 51.1%.

◆ Fidelity South East Asia Trust

With the increasing industrialisation of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia and the growing importance of Singapore, South East Asia offers aggressive investors potentially higher rewards (with higher risks) through the performance of **Fidelity South East Asia Trust** - gaining 178.2% since its launch (13.10.84) and 55.6% in 1989.

The 1990s could well be the decade of diversification for investors. To find out more about Fidelity's proven performance across major world markets, talk to your Independent Financial Adviser. Alternatively, Callfree Fidelity on 0800 414161 or return the coupon below for your free copy of Fidelity's international investment views and recommendations.

Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of a unit trust or PEP may go down as well as up, hence the investor may not get back the amount invested. Tax advantages of a PEP are subject to statutory change.

*All Trust performance figures to 1.1.90, offer to offer, net income reinvested. Source: Micropal. Over 5 years: Special Situations Trust +306.8% and ranks No.2, Japan Special Situations Trust +307.5%, South East Asia Trust +158.5%.

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FAMILY MONEY

Charles Kersley sounds a warning about overseas 'goldmines'

East European exodus threatens expat options

Recent political changes in Eastern Europe could have a far-reaching impact on job prospects for Britons seeking work abroad.

Limited scope for skilled people is already apparent and will be followed by higher-grade opportunities as hunger for technology transfer grows, say expatriate employment experts. In the short-term, the outlook may be bright as infrastructure expands to serve the forecast upsurge in consumer goods demand.

Within 10 years, however, the former communist nations will not only be competing successfully overseas but "will have ended Japan's domination of world markets," according to Mr Keith Edmunds, chairman of Finchford, owners of the Expats International service organization.

He believes the need for Western expertise will by then have dwindled, while nationals of the countries concerned will flood into the expat labour market, prepared to work for less pay than British staff.

The current influx of skilled labour from East to West Germany provides a foretaste of the expected extra competitiveness for jobs. Many migrants will be candidates for the million or more jobs which the Single European Market is expected to create.

In the countdown to 1992, Britons will individually stand above-average chances in



continental Europe providing they are experienced, degreed, and equipped to "operational" level at least in a second language.

This means being fluent enough to carry out business—something which can usually be achieved with about 10 weeks' full-time tuition.

British engineers of all disciplines, sales and marketing managers, and information technology experts are highly regarded on the Continent, according to Mr Tony Smith, managing director of International Training & Recruitment Link. They are in demand in Belgium, the Netherlands and West Germany. An electrical engineer

being paid £20,000 annually here would receive up to £28,000 in Holland or West Germany. A middle-rank marketing executive on £18,000-£20,000 in Britain can earn £25,000-£32,000 a year on the Continent, while a general manager or managing director can gain a 20 per cent improvement on his British income in the £30,000-£50,000 bracket.

Computing and data-processing skills are effectively passports to opportunities world-wide, along with the medical, nursing, pharmacy and physiotherapy professions.

Such skills continue to open doors in the Middle and Far

East, regions traditionally seen as expat "goldmines" but now becoming less attractive or less easily accessible through the growing reliance on local staff "indigenization" relatively lower rewards, or restrictive employment policies.

Nexus, the recently launched overseas jobs magazine, quotes the instance of a quality assurance engineer earning £18,000 pa in Saudi Arabia and now grossing £25,000 for a similar post in London. "Expats are looking at the home market again," declared Miss Sheila Hare, the editor.

Rising salaries and low living costs compared with

many other countries are two reasons for this turnaround. Britain comes 59th in the list of 70 countries in the purchasing power table for a "shopping basket" of essentials, according to a global survey by Employment Conditions Abroad.

Iran is the costliest country, followed by Japan, Finland, Zaire, Norway and China (the least expensive nation 10 years ago, but now 84 per cent dearer than Britain). Australia and the US are 25 and 23 per cent respectively more expensive than Britain. Argentina, South Africa and India are 19-24 per cent cheaper.

If Europe is flagged as the next expat Eldorado, this does not deny the continued availability of worthwhile postings in developing states such as Kenya—where oil extraction is starting—Libya and Brunei.

Many openings also exist in Hong Kong at least until the handover in 1997.

A worthwhile posting is one that provides high pay, low or no taxation, free or subsidized accommodation, all air fares and medical care, enabling the expat to bank up to 90 per cent of his or her earnings.

One-third of Expats International's members each manage to save £15,000 a year, and 10 per cent hold cash assets totalling a minimum of £100,000.

Expats International, 01-670 8304; IT & RL, 01-706 3646; Nexus, 01-761 2575.

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Johnson Fry, the Country's leading BES sponsor, is now able to announce its major new BES Issues for January and February.

The new Issues will be automatically sent to Johnson Fry's 19,000 existing BES investors. New investors may obtain copies of prospectuses plus a free copy of "An Investor's Guide to BES" on request.

Launch Date	Company	Business	Maximum Subscription
17th Jan	JF Quality Coaching Inns	Series of hotel companies	£500,000 x 20
24th Jan	JF "Waterside Collection" and Special Opportunities	Series of £5m companies investing in residential property	£5m x 18
30th Jan	Edinburgh Tankers	A 4th Issue for this oil tanker company	£5m
2nd Feb	JF Premier Nursing Homes	Series of Nursing Home companies	£500,000 x 20

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Addressing the credit blacklist problem

So many people have been victims of the system that allows debts to be recorded against addresses and not names that the Data Protection Registrar is to order a stop to the practice.

Credit reference agencies often store clients' records of customers' debt and credit ratings under addresses.

The result is that a customer without a bad debt history could be refused credit by a store because of money owed by a previous occupant of his address.

The Data Protection Registrar has now accumulated enough cases to

take action. As he considers the practice to be unfair and as such a breach of the Data Protection Act, he intends to issue enforcement notices to the agencies to stop using this method of recording debt and credit details.

The agencies can contest the notices at a tribunal, which would make a binding decision—probably setting a precedent.

However, an agency that ignores the notice would be committing a criminal offence.

An investigator at the Data Protection Registrar's office says: "Often it is only when somebody gets a copy of his own file from the agency that he

realizes it does not refer to him." Many consumers do not question credit refusal but a copy of an agency's file usually costs only £1 and must be supplied on request.

A customer who was told that debt recorded against him on an agency file would be removed found it was still listed nearly a year later.

A £16 debt was referred by the Family Album mail order company in 1984 to the CCN Systems agency.

The debt was actually cleared at about the time it was recorded but it was still on the file in late 1988, when it temporarily barred the customer from receiving instant credit at a large

store. After the customer complained, Family Album agreed to have the record deleted in February 1989, but the Data Protection Registrar's office found it was there in December 1989.

An administrative error was blamed by Family Album. Both Family Album and CCN Systems are part of the Great Universal Stores organization. The entry had been removed from the Family Album record but not from the CCN Systems file. The customer has been assured via the Data Protection Registrar's office that both records have now been deleted.

Brian Collett

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FAMILY MONEY

Self-build mortgage launched

A mortgage for do-it-yourself house builders was launched this week by the Abbey National. The self-build loans are at the Abbey's standard mortgage rate — 14.5 per cent up to £50,000 and 13.9 per cent above this.

The loans are divided into two parts. Initially up to 75 per cent of the cost of the land will be advanced so long as it has a minimum of two years planning permission to run.

When planning permission is granted builders usually have five years to undertake the work.

The second part of the loan will be released in four or five stages after the building work has been completed to agreed levels and certified by a surveyor or other qualified person approved by Abbey.

Self-builders will need to put up at least a quarter of the cost of their new home as the maximum loan is 75 per cent of the total cost of the land and construction or the full cost of the construction, whichever is the lower.

The Abbey estimates that 8,000 people will build their own homes this year.

National & Provincial Building Society also has a self-build mortgage with funds released in six stages.

Conal Gregory checks out what is on offer to protect holidaymakers' interests

Compulsory insurance clouds sunny prices of package deals

Anyone planning a summer holiday had better watch out. Those unbeatable holiday deals may not be quite what they seem, especially after all the hidden extras have surfaced.

The sting in the tail with most of the offers is the high price of the compulsory insurance. Depending upon the cost of the overall holiday and the number of people travelling on it, it may be better to arrange the insurance through a broker, bank or building society, or to take out a policy for more than one holiday in the year. There are several deals on the market.

A T Mays will give a cash reduction of £50 per person on bookings that cost £1,000 or more per person. The discount falls to £15 on £700 or over plus a three-piece travel pack or four-piece luggage set. Even bookings worth £300-plus qualify for the travel pack or luggage. In addition, each person need only pay £25 deposit to secure the booking.

The Midland Bank travel arm, Thomas Cook, similarly

insists that the cover provided by Eagle Star insurer, Home and Overseas, is taken if the holidaymaker is benefiting from one of their discounts. The cost is £19.45 for 14 to 17 days in Europe and £20.75 for 18 to 24 days. There is no discount for children over two years old.

Thomas Cook has four reductions on offer: £60 for Faraway holidays, £50 where the individual cost is £750 or more, £25 on £400 or more, and £15 where £250 cash is spent, all discounts being quoted on a per person basis. To make life easier for the traveller, no deposit is required until March 1.

The only upfront fee is the insurance premium which is £17.95 to cover 14 to 17 days and £21.60 for 18 to 21 days. Children can be covered for £15.25 and £18.40 for each respective period.

The insurance, arranged through Home and Overseas, costs £18 for a 10-17 day holiday in Europe or £21.50 per person for 18 to 31 days. Surprisingly, there is no dis-

count for children over two years old.

There is also a cash discount with Co-op Travel. This is £10 on £100 holiday, £15 on £250 and £25 on £400 plus.

A two-tier discount is available through Hogg Robinson — £25 off per booking up to £398 and £50 over this sum on selected brochures. The range includes Intersun, Redwing, Falcon, Cosmos and Yugotours. Their compulsory insurance, through Sun Alliance, is £17.50 on 10 to 17 day trips and £20.35 on 18 to 23 days in Europe. Under-12-year-olds pay £13.15 and £16 respectively.

Bishopsgate Insurance is compulsory with Lunn Poly, and costs £18.95 for 11 to 17 days and £22.95 on 18 to 24 days with no reductions for children over two years old. For holidays after April 1 through to October 31, discounts start at £5 per person up to £99, rising to £75 off on £1,250.

Pickfords uses Commercial Union and charges £18 for 13

to 17 days in Europe and £21.60 for 18 to 24 nights with half-price for child premiums. A low deposit of £25 and discounts of £20 to £100 on holidays of £900 plus are offered.

Some operators are quoting special deals whether the holidaymaker books direct or via an agent. Cosmos is offering both a complimentary car phone with no fee for either the installation or aerial through Midas Communications and deposits of £5. Tel 061-480-5799.

It may be better, however, to purchase holiday insurance elsewhere. In this event, check rates out before signing the booking form as most operators insist that equal or better benefits are in force with an insurer at the time the holiday booking is effected through an agent or operator direct.

Cornhill Insurance, for example, quotes just £16.80 for 9 to 17 days in Europe and £25.40 for 18 to 23 days with half rates for children two to 15 years old. They also have a

family rate for two adults and up to four children of three times the single adult premium.

Bradford & Bingley Building Society operates a competitive rate through General Accident. Since most home insurance policies cover for items such as cameras and jewellery when they are taken on holiday, it is sensible not to insure the same items twice over. Bradford & Bingley quotes £11.11 on 10 to 17 days in Europe and £14 to £19 for 18 to 23 days if baggage cover is deleted. For 2-15 year olds, the premium rates are £5.56 and £7.10 respectively.

ABTA has its own policies underwritten by Municipal Insurance. Its Silver Travel costs £13.65 and £18.45 for 11 to 17 and 18 to 31 European days and Gold cover £16.60 and £22.10 for increased cover.

Check that policies are comprehensive. Many exclude the first £50 for claims and do not offer compensation for flight delays until 12 hours has been spent at an airport.

Gas plan takes heat out of bills

A new British Gas advertising campaign to attract customers to its "budget payment" plan has produced record levels of interest.

It claims to be signing up 10,000 people a week for the scheme, which allows customers to even out gas payments over the year in fixed monthly instalments.

Under the plan, British Gas makes estimates of customers' annual gas consumption, based on a series of factors — for example, the size of the home, the number of people in residence, their employment status (jobs take people away from the home and therefore reduce gas consumption) and past use.

But British Gas stresses that information is given voluntarily. "We don't like to pry," said a spokesman, "but the more information we have, the better estimate we can make."

Adjustments are periodically made to the estimate based on a meter reading, just as with quarterly payments. British Gas says it has no statistics on what percentage of gas bills are over-estimated.

By putting off payment on winter bills until the summer, participants in the scheme may get a slight time value

advantage on their money provided the bills are not significantly over-estimated.

Not surprisingly, the biggest demand for the plan is in the winter.

But the time advantage is reduced by the fact that instalments under the plan are monthly rather than quarterly.

British Gas says one of the scheme's main advantages is it makes it easier to plan household budgets.

It claims the plan will reduce the level of disconnections due to unpaid bills. "We hope," said Mr Brian Sellers, assistant director of accounting services at British Gas, "that the advertising will encourage people who think they might have difficulties to talk to us."

"We'll do our best to find a suitable method of payment. Of course, it is better if customers contact us as soon as possible."

The budget payments advertising campaign is part of a long-term British Gas effort to reduce the level of disconnections and thereby improve public relations. The company claims disconnections are down 50 per cent on last year.

Victoria Griffith

Where there's a risk there's an indemnity

Ladbroke offers 200 to 1 against a UK male player winning the Wimbledon singles in the next decade, 100 to 1 for a woman player doing likewise and the same odds for an alien landing on earth.

Similar principles operate in errors and omissions (E & O) insurance. A premium, or series of premiums, is paid against an event such as "persons... dying of laughter while watching a hilarious video film".

The principle of E & O cover is in the General Confession from the Book of Common Prayer: "We have left undone those things which we ought to have done. And we have done those things which we ought not to have done."

As an example, imagine that while using the hyphenation facility on a Dopy disk, someone prints "the rapist" instead of "therapist". A spelling checker or proof reader does not pick up the mistake. With successful libel actions being the next best thing to winning the pools, an unsuccessful defendant of the above misprint could face a life of poverty. So too could a builder who lapses into feet from metres or a dietician in danger of losing thousands by using a wrong weight or mix.

E & O covers such disasters in nearly 300 occupations. It is available through intermediaries.

Jennie Hawthorne

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*Source: Council of Mortgage Lenders

**A typical example for a man aged 30 borrowing £100,000 over 25 years with a major Building Society would be £1117.71 per month, in comparison to the £1211.15 per month on this scheme. These figures are for interest payments only and are net of basic tax relief.

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Eagle Star Environmental Opps	11.0	2
Eagle Star Global Capital	7.2	3

Performance over 3 months	% Increase	Rank
UK EQUITY INCOME		
Eagle Star UK High Income	10.9	1
Eagle Star Quality Income	-1.7	80
Eagle Star Income	-7.1	114

Source: "Financial Adviser" Magazine 4 1/90, a Financial Times Publication.

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FAMILY MONEY

Rodney Hobson on the problems of bankruptcy proceedings

Creditors recover more with voluntary schemes

A record number of debtors will be pursued to bankruptcy this year and a record number of creditors will probably find that their thirst for revenge is given greater satisfaction than their pocket.

During the 1970s between 3,000 and 4,000 individuals were declared bankrupt each year. The average since 1981 has been 7,000, and the figures are rising.

Last year the sorry toll topped 8,000, while 9,000 seems well within reach for 1990 given continuing high interest rates.

Yet changes in the law which took effect at the year-end make taking a debtor through bankruptcy proceedings less remunerative for the creditors.

The 1986 Insolvency Act ruled that bankrupts, who have made a clean breast of things and co-operated with officials, will be discharged three years from the day the bankruptcy order was made. Bankrupts formerly had to wait a minimum of five years.

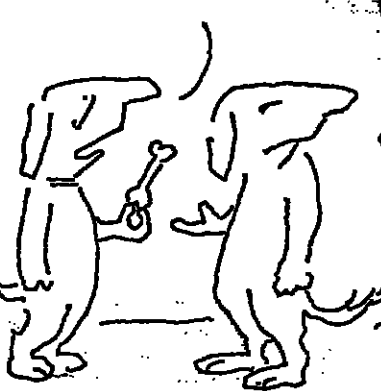
An estimated 25,000 discharges became automatic at the end of December.

The discharge wipes the slate clean: outstanding debts, tax arrears and even court costs can no longer be claimed unless fraud was involved. The one exception is that assets held at the time of discharge can still be disposed of later and the proceeds distributed among creditors.

The discharge also removes restrictions imposed on a bankrupt. He cannot obtain more than £250 credit without disclosing that he is a bankrupt; he cannot be a company director; he cannot hold certain offices under the Local Government Act; and he cannot be an MP or solicitor.

While creditors receive a

May I suggest some sort of voluntary arrangement?



G.E.D.

useful dividend in some bankruptcies, the cost of the proceedings falls on the estate and the official receiver takes precedence over creditors.

Mr John McQueen, secretary of the Association of Bankrupts, claims that, on average, costs swallow up 80 per cent of a debtor's assets.

"The bankruptcy machine feeds itself," he complains.

One point on which creditors are better off under the new rules is that they can force the sale of the family home 12 months after the bankruptcy order, even if this breaks up the debtor's family.

Mr McQueen says: "Under the old act the court had discretion to delay the sale of the home and that discretion was often used when there were small children."

"I remember one case of a 15-year delay where a woman had seven children."

"In other countries such as

Ireland you cannot force a wife to sell the home because her husband has gone bankrupt."

Often the most fruitful course for debtor and creditor alike is a voluntary arrangement. Instead of going bankrupt, the debtor makes an offer, such as to pay so much in the pound in full settlement of outstanding debts or to postpone payments until an asset can be realized.

Anyone in financial trouble can attempt to make a voluntary arrangement to stave off bankruptcy.

Where an individual applies to make himself bankrupt, the court will try to set up a voluntary arrangement if debts are no more than £20,000 and assets £2,000 or more.

The creditors vote on whether to accept an offer. Of those voting, 75 per cent in terms of money claimed must

be in favour otherwise the scheme cannot be imposed on all creditors. As a safeguard, court approval is also required.

Even a voluntary arrangement can be costly, working out at £1,000 to £4,000 depending on how complex the case is.

About 200 voluntary arrangements were set up in 1987 under the new Insolvency Act and the figure rose to 800 last year, still only about 10 per cent of the level of bankruptcies.

Mr McQueen says: "Very few people know about voluntary arrangements. Many accountants and solicitors are just not aware of it. A large number of bankruptcies could be avoided."

"Research suggests that voluntary arrangements leave creditors 10 per cent better off than they would have been in bankruptcy procedures."

F&C tops league of general trusts

Foreign & Colonial has come out top of a league for general investment trusts.

It joins the ranks of Alliance, Globe and Murray International as the ones to watch in the 1990s, according to a review, published today, of the largest trusts by County NatWest WoodMac.

It compares the "Big Thirteen" trusts, and gives Foreign & Colonial a standing ovation, enthusing: "This is the blue chip, the one to beat."

"Foreign & Colonial is the company you buy because you believe in the management and in their continued ability to spot market and currency trends."

While Alliance emerges as "a sound bet" for investors keen on Britain and the US, Globe wins points for being "large, diversified and surprisingly versatile."

Murray Johnstone, meanwhile, has scored something of a coup. "How do you satisfy a UK bear/US and Euro bull while providing a 5 per cent yield? The answer is buy Murray International."

Although past performance is the usual benchmark in such surveys, County has taken matters further. Personality and management record are just as important, it says, especially for the large trusts.

"We are trying to highlight that these trusts can vary substantially," said Mr Harish Buchan, County director. "Ten years ago they all had similar holdings. Today, they are all trying to develop characters of their own."

"We are saying there is a big difference between buying one trust and another," said Mr Buchan. "A trust investing in a boom sector may do well whatever the quality of the management."

County recently predicted that investment trusts would find new favour with private investors in the 1990s.

"If we are correct in this, then the biggest single market will be good, dependable, balanced total return trusts offering a diversified spread of assets."

A typical general trust portfolio has 58 per cent in Britain, 20 per cent in North America, 9 per cent each in Japan and Europe, and 4 per cent in other Far Eastern markets.

The big 13 are: Alliance, Anglo & Overseas, British Assets, Edinburgh Investment, Fleming Overseas, Foreign & Colonial, Globe, Govett Strategic, Murray International, Scottish Eastern, Scottish Investment, Scottish Mortgage and Witan.

Whitechurch Securities of Bristol has launched the Warrant Account, focusing on highly volatile warrants of split capital investment trusts. There is a 6 per cent fee and an annual management charge of 10 per cent of gains, plus VAT. The minimum investment is £2,000.

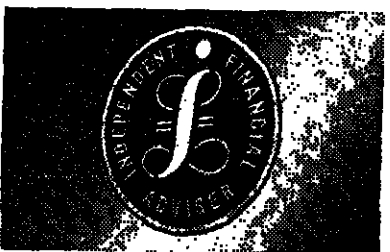
Jon Ashworth

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Barclays keeping gifts on the cards

Barclaycard has announced that it will be running its Profiles scheme for a third year. The scheme gives card-users one point for every £10 spent using the card. Points can then be used to claim gifts.

The current scheme ends next month, and no points will be given in March and April. Cardholders have until the end of April to claim gifts, but unused points can be put into the next scheme, starting with the May statements.

The present catalogue's most popular gifts - with over 5,000 redemptions each - are a portable telephone, a personal stereo, a coffee-maker and a cordless screwdriver.

More than a million of the 1.6 million cardholders reg-

istered in the scheme have claimed gifts, which have a minimum price of 150 points. Cardholders can give points to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. This week, Barclays Bank handed it £75,000.

Mr Richard Reay-Smith, managing director of Barclays Card Services, said: "The two schemes have generated additional turnover on Barclaycard running into hundreds of millions of pounds as customers have used their card in preference to cash, cheques or a rival card."

Midland Bank has decided to end its points-for-gifts plan. Its Access cardholders are told this month that they have until February 28 for claims.

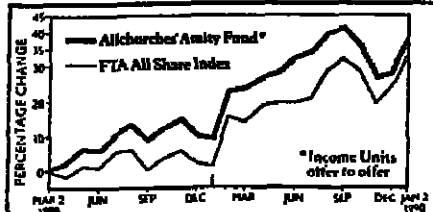
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- COOK: AT THE MANDARIN, HONG KONG
- EATING OUT: JAPANESE

Passion of a racing community

Whippet-racing is the earthiest of sports, and the rag-racing version on Tyneside a folk culture in its own right. There are no dressed-up crowds, and no gambling. But the *amour* is intense, the victor's trophy a glittering prize.

Alan Franks reports

The ragged lure twitches into life and sets off across the field at a breakneck pace, bobbing and bucking like a hare on the rough grass, pulled by a Heath Robinson thing in the middle distance. As we shall see, this is a world not of tinniness but ingenuity.

The whippets scent the action and come roaring from the portable traps in a blur of shine and sinew. You blink and it is all over; the racers, 20-odd pounds of non-sense dog, have dwindled into specks on the far side of the field — just about vanished with the speed of a rocket into the sky.

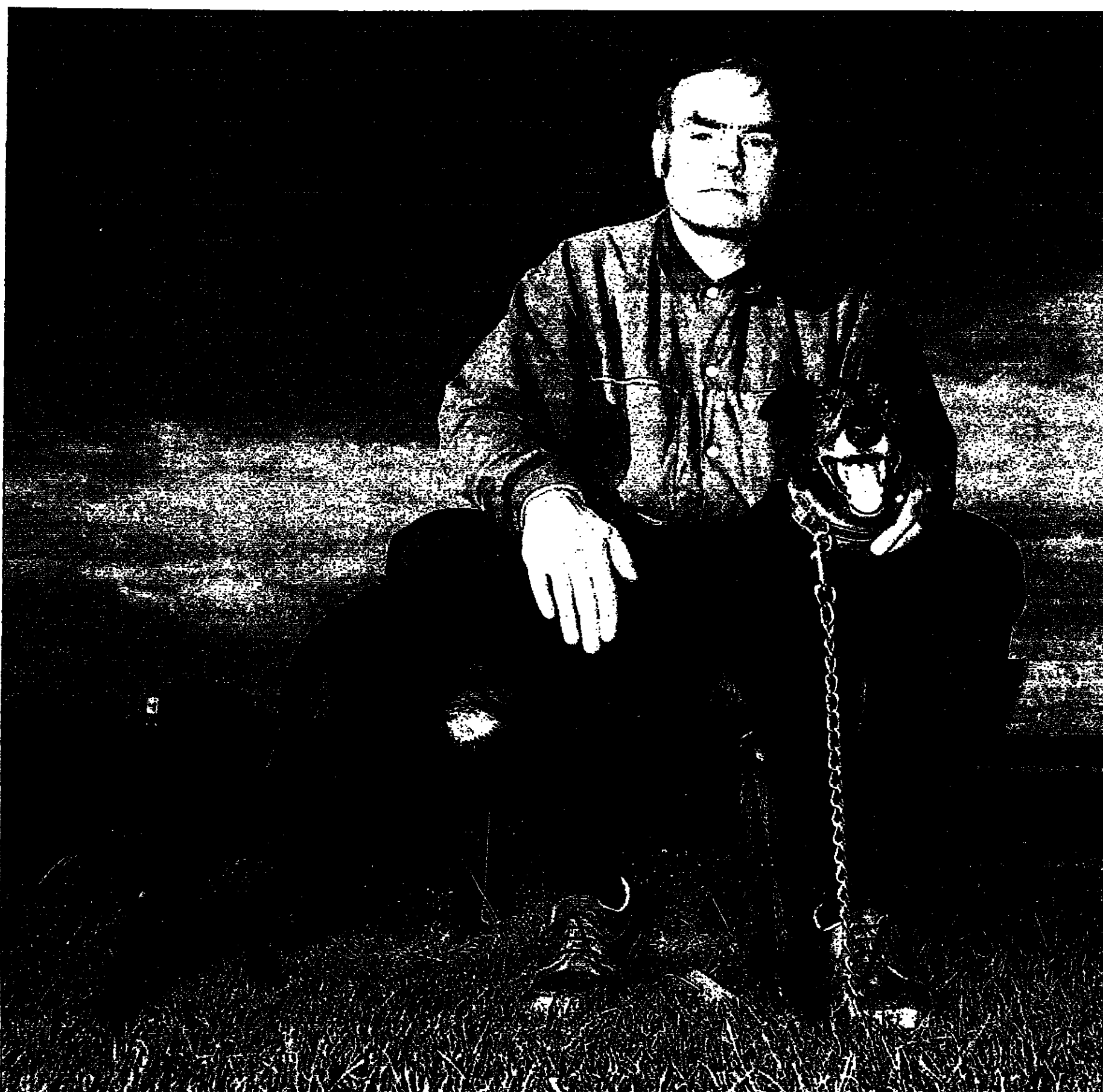
The winner on this New Year morning is S. Express in a time of 8.92 seconds, which is quick enough for 150 yards, but no threat to Crackerjack's three-year-old course record of 8.58.

There are no large crowds here on the expanse of recreation ground behind the Drift Inn at Seaton Burn, a village just off the A1, six miles up the road from Newcastle. No gambling either; just the men and women, some young, some old, some children, and the dogs, all of them panting breaths of mist into the grey air.

Yet this, being a bank holiday, is a special trophy meeting, and the dogs are competing for the George Griffiths Shield, named after the landlord of the Moorhouse pub, to which the dog-racers will repair at the end of the competition. You could not sniff more passion, more commitment, or any of those other sensations claimed by professional sport, if you were at a Tyneside soccer derby.

The men say that the dogs have their own internal clocks, by which they know when the important races are due to fall, and brace themselves accordingly. They, the animals rather than the men, grow twitchy and short-tempered in the hours before the start, and have to be muzzled in case they turn nasty. When they do turn nasty, it is usually the master who is the target.

This is a complete character transformation, from the pally and clubbable creature, who has probably spent the rest of the week as a pet, and a cursing dog. The third element of their potential, but when it does so, it has them utterly in its teeth, so that the nine seconds and the 150 yards seem to become their life's sole focus and justification. This is amateur sport, and the *amour* is intense.



Portrait of a racing man: Ernie Forster, chairman of Seaton Burn Whippet Racing Club, and his dog, Blackie. To him the attraction of the sport is "the fun, the sheer thrill of the race"

We are witnessing rag-racing, which is the informal and fiercely independent end of whippet competition. While pedigree events are overseen by the Whippet Club Racing Association, rag-racing has no national governing body. The clubs, like this one at Seaton Burn, are the prime unit, appointing their own committees and drawing up their own sets of rules.

Seaton Burn, for example, is very hot on conduct, which comes partly from the belief that rag-racing is re-emerging in pockets of the north-east of England as a family pastime. Just as the committee can, and does, bar dogs from racing if they have shown viciousness on the track, so they will suspend members for swearing and abuse. According to the club's chairman, Ernie Forster, this measure had to be invoked recently.

What had the offending member done, that the committee should bar him? "Oo, it woom'n", a he, it woom'a she. She started complaining about how the club

wore, run, an 'er language got a bit too strong."

Talk to different whippet owners on Tyneside and you will hear such different accounts of the sport's condition that they are at times contradictory. One version has it that since it is traditionally a miner's pursuit, and since the mining population has thinned out as a result of the pit closures of the 1980s, it follows that rag-racing must somehow have waned in sympathy. The other argument is that since it is one of the cheapest hobbies imaginable, it actually flourishes in areas of unemployment. The experience of Cramlington, Cottle, Killingworth and Wallsend, all of which have well-supported clubs, bears out the second theory.

"It's definitely surviving," says Shirley Brown, secretary of Seaton Burn. "Some of the pedigree whippet fraternity may look down on it, but perhaps they have a vested interest in saying it's not doing well. I think that when there was a spread in greyhound racing,

that had a bad effect on us, because there was money to be made there."

"Maybe the 19 to 30-year-olds are not so interested in rag-racing, but the older ones and the younger ones certainly are, and I would say it's quietly flourishing. My own daughter is 17 and she has been going since she was two. Then there's men like Billy Cough, who's 74 now and still racing his dogs. He was one of the founder members of Seaton Burn 30 years ago. The number of dogs seems to drop, and then suddenly it explodes again."

"One of the big differences between us and the pedigree association is that theirs is organized in weight classes, while we time the dogs on the day and arrange the handicaps accordingly. They view it as a horse-racing type of thing, and we see it as a natural selection process."

Many of the rag-racing dogs are the result of cross-breeding with a lurcher or a greyhound several generations back. Over a longer distance a good greyhound could be expected to outrun a good whippet, but the latter has a different kind of stamina.

For example, S. Express, the New Year's Day winner, had taken part in seven race meetings in 11 days. And in order to win today's trophy the same dog had run no fewer than eight races in the course of the morning — five heats, two semis, and the final.

Perhaps the sport is best described as Greyhounds in the Vernacular. The set-up at the recreation ground is too easily dismissed as hick and ramshackle, when in reality it is the sporting expression of a community with a history of resourcefulness. The Heath Robinson thing in the middle distance is a wooden platform mounted on pram wheels, with a beer crate housing the go-kart motor that spools in the lure. The traps are similarly home-made affairs of metal and wood, stored in an unheeled goods wagon next to the cricket pavilion. If that much is the result of improvisation, the animals themselves are the most thoroughly tuned racing machines, with a competitive life of up to nine years.

From the expressions on the owner's faces as their dogs devour the ground, the men could be any boys in any park testing some marvellous remote-controlled, shout-sensitive toy in which they have invested all their time and pocket money. "It's all done for the fun," says Forster. "That's the

"slippers" and bawled into top gear by their rag-waving owners behind the finishing line. The performance of the dog hinged on the force and efficiency of his send-off, much as does a modern bobsleigh.

Despite all the hubbub, the rivalry and the reputations won and lost, the sums involved remain the smallest of beers. At Seaton Burn, which has 20 members, it costs the owner £1.10 to enter his dog for a race, of which 10p goes to the boys who run the rag back for the start of the next race. Of the remaining £1, 90p is put towards prizes, 7p into club funds, with 3p funding the Dog and Bitch of the Year awards, which are contested on a points-per-meeting basis in the course of the calendar.

Here, an average racing dog would sell for about £40, and, barring injury, incur minor running costs. For example, S. Express's fuel intake consists of vitamin tablets, meal and Chappie.

According to Alan Harbottle, who runs the rag machine, some owners swear that good butcher's meat, particularly ox hearts, and an avoidance of tinned food, is reflected in the performance. Bert Marcell, Shirley Brown's father, shakes his head sceptically. He is the club's hand-capper, a successor to the much-respected Artie Robson. Marcell has the crucial job of timing each dog during the heats and converting the result into a handicap for the day, at the rate of one seven hundredth of a second per yard.

Both he and Harbottle say they have seen feelings run very high in a disputed finish, but that it has never quite come to blows. They recall Crackerjack's record run as a classic day in the club's history, and argue that the time was exceptionally good, given that Seaton Burn is a heavy course.

On a day like this, when the North Sea has been transferring itself drop by drop on to the nearest land, the 8.75 across the sodden rec is more than respectable.

Dogs are not always *personae graue* in the Moorhouse, but S. Express is not being asked to leave. He has about him the same lean and triumphant look as the one which fellow Georgie Jack Charlton carries these days. The owner is Bill Savage, a local miner employed at Durham. He is like his dog; quiet, pleasant, and with not a spare ounce about him.

George Griffiths steps out from behind the bar to present the shield which bears own name. The inscribed panels flash in the New Year gloom. This is where the money is; £400 a year on trophies, so that the winner can be given a replica to keep at the end of his year of tenure. After the rag machine, the DIY traps and the static goods van, this stack of wood and silverware laid out on a bar table before the fire is coming extremely close to ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JACK DANIELS
Country Times and Landscape

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The lure man: Alan Harbottle, who runs the "rag" machine, says "good butcher's meat" makes good racers

Rival US film companies ready to march on the Continent before 1992

Paramount takes a leading role in UK

Artistic talent in Britain and the liberalization of the Eastern bloc are two factors attracting an American invasion of Europe's film industry, says Martin Waller

"The British are coming!" was Colin Welland's proud boast as *Chariots of Fire* swept the board at the 1982 Oscars ceremony. Nowadays, it seems, the running shoe is on the other foot.

Paramount's decision this week to set up a base in London from which to originate and develop pictures using purely European talent was widely welcomed in film industry circles. It was seen as representing another vote of confidence in the European market by the world's biggest motion picture industry. More big studios are expected to follow suit soon.

A host of Los Angeles studio executives, headed by Mr Sidney Ganis, the president of Paramount's Motion Picture Group, were in London to fête the opening of the London office.

The first fruits of the venture should go into production this autumn. Paramount launched its initiative on the back of this year's favourite for the quality end of the Oscar market, *Shirley Valentine*, which brought Pauline Collins fame in the United States, playing a bored Liverpool housewife experiencing a new awakening on a Greek holiday.

Shirley Valentine was this year's big "sleeper." Speculation suggests Paramount was initially unhappy to become involved in what looked like a typically downbeat product aimed specifically at up-market British tastes.

But the studio behind the money-spinning Indiana Jones films, starring Harrison Ford, was prepared to take a risk on a production which looked as if it might bring in artistic credibility if not hard cash.

Paramount is already well-entrenched in the British television industry through its November purchase of 49 per cent of Zenith, the production

company responsible for *Inspector Morse* and *The Paradise Club* and previously fully-owned by Mr Michael Green's Carlton Communications.

Columbia is thought to be the next US studio set to make its mark in Europe, with Paris as a likely base. Meanwhile, MCA last year announced plans for its own "Hollywood-on-Thames" — a Disney-style theme park on a run-down stretch of Essex marshland combined with a state-of-the-art studio. This replica of MCA's Universal Film Studios, in Los Angeles, planned for Rainham, south of Romford, will cost £2.6 billion and is being designed for MCA by Steven Spielberg. It will be named Universal City.

MCA's Los Angeles theme park is the most successful in Hollywood and is being duplicated at a \$500 million (£312 million) development in Florida being built with Rank Organisation, of Britain.

The notion of combining a theme park and film studio is echoed at Euro Disneyland, being built 20 miles east of Paris at a cost of more than £1.4 billion. The project, set to open in 1992, was the subject of a heavily-hyped share issue in London last year, raising £607 million to give investors 51 per cent of the company, with Walt Disney Company, the parent, retaining the rest.

Largely overlooked at the time of the flotation, however, were the parent company's plans to put up a moderate-sized film production facility at the site. It may eventually build a full working studio in Paris similar to the one recently opened near Disneyland in Florida, said Mr Rich Frank, president of Walt Disney Studios.

Warner Communications has had other things on its mind over the past year than an invasion of the European market, not least the complex manoeuvrings that led to its

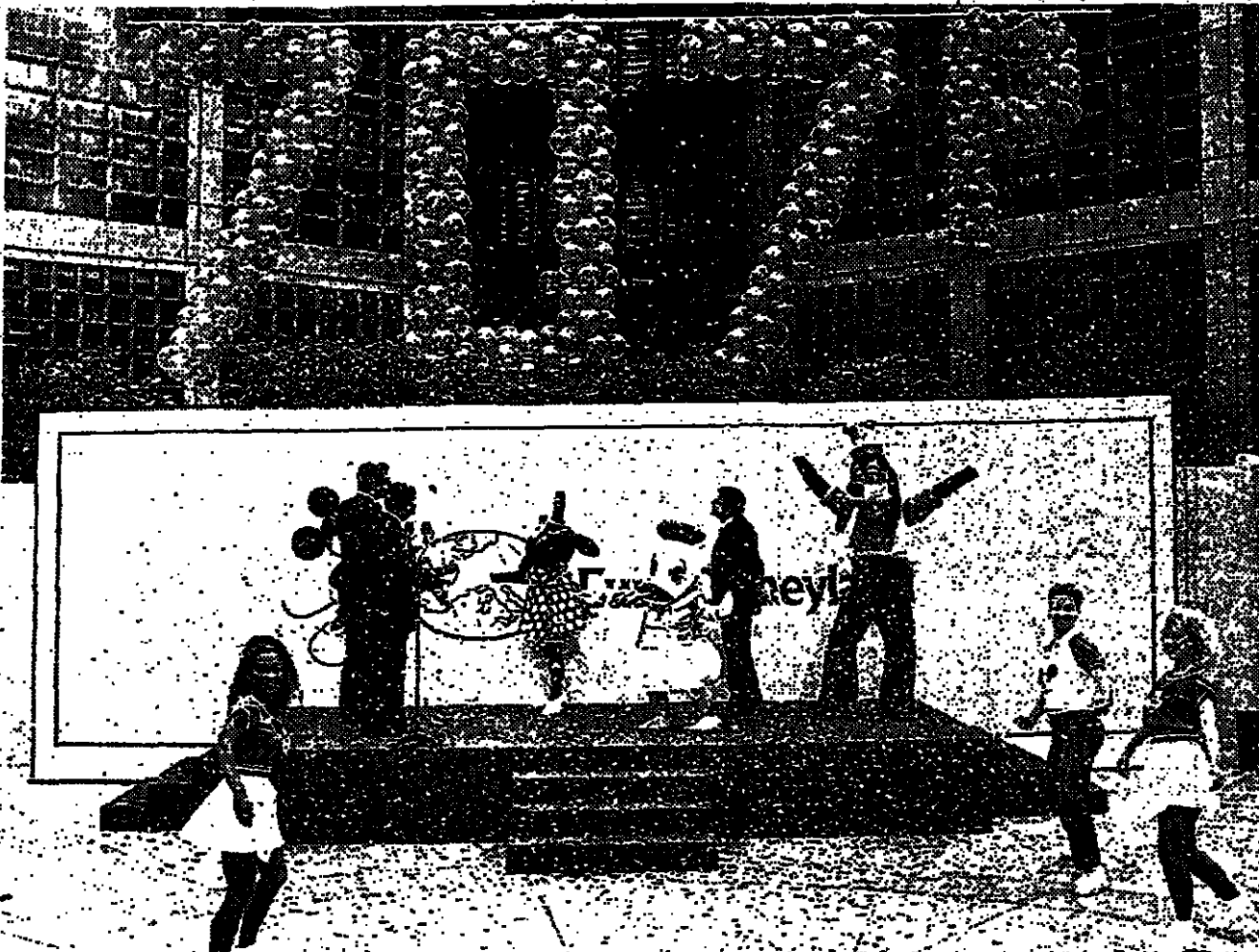


Walker: buyout at Goldcrest

acquisition by Time Inc and the success of *Batman*, the movie. It will not open a European studio, or production unit, preferring to supervise production at first hand.

Mr Mark Cantoni, executive vice president of Warner Bros and head in charge of the studio's worldwide production, said: "Quality control still sits under our big roof in Burbank, California."

Instead, it is spearheading the move into "multiplex" cinemas, often located out of town with several screens, bars and restaurants. Warner Bros, which has opened three 10-screen multiplexes in this country in the past two years, expects by 1991 to have more than 100 screens in Britain and multiplexes in West Germany and Denmark.



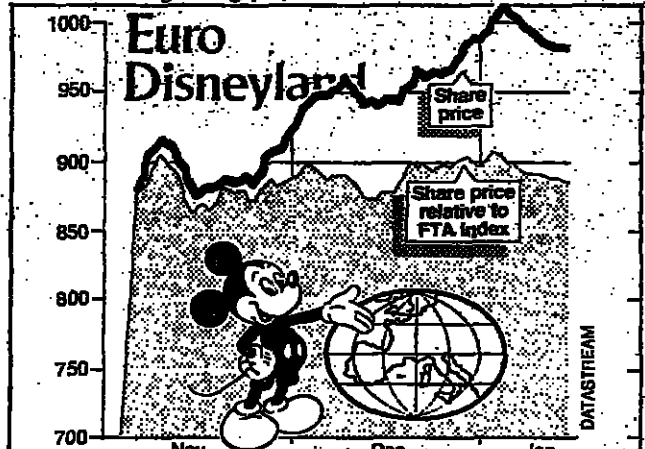
Fantasy come true: Euro Disney shares have been strong performers in London since being offered to the public at 707p

nied by wide-eyed encomiums for the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the BBC, and other great cultural institutions apparently still the envy of our Transatlantic brethren.

What the film moguls want is a slice of a growing pie, if

necessary by sneaking in before the barriers come down in 1992.

Recent events in Eastern Europe have enlarged that pie even further, promising a captive audience which is unsophisticated, when it comes to television. The Euro-



Consistent strong performance: Euro Disney share progress

pean market consists of one billion souls, and American studios fear those souls could be lost to them.

Mr Andrew Patrick, director of administration at the British Film and TV Producers Association, the industry body in Britain, admits that no one yet knows what will happen to the European film market post-1992. "It's one of the most over-debated and under-understood topics of conversation."

Britain accounts for about 3 per cent of all the film financing in the world, against 60 per cent in the US. A combined Europe could account for 30 or even 35 per cent.

The stumbling block is language, which is why the film industry is buzzing with speculation about Franco-German joint productions and the like, to be made "back-to-back" with different versions made in the language

of target audiences. Paramount is likely to focus on the English language market, hence its choice of London as a base for operations.

The history of Hollywood's relationship with European cinema has been a troubled one. David Lean, the British director, made *The Bridge on the River Kwai* and *Lawrence of Arabia* with Sam Spiegel, the American producer, about 30 years ago. At the time, it was cheaper to make a Hollywood movie in Europe. That love affair came to an end with disasters like *Chariots of Fire*.

It is fair to say that not all the European film industry views the arrival of the Americans with unalloyed delight.

But the British experience gives fair warning of the alternative. The British film industry consists of one company, Goldcrest, still waiting for a management buyout from its latest owner, Brent Walker, the leisure combine



Spielberg: Universal designs

headed by Mr George Walker. Thrown in with the film production company, and representing virtually all its assets, is the old Elstree film studios in Hertfordshire. Elstree, has long held the imagination of the industry, a factor shown by the future that greeted plans to redevelop it as offices in 1988.

Roped in to provide moral support during that fight were Spielberg, his associate George Lucas, the man behind *Star Wars*, and Mr Jim Henson of Muppets fame. But the Americans' support failed to include financial guarantees. A suggested price tag for Goldcrest, including the Elstree development, whose fate will be decided by the local planning authority this month, is £90 million.

Mr Patrick at the BFTPA said: "Whatever their motives, we're so short of production investment we will take money from anybody."

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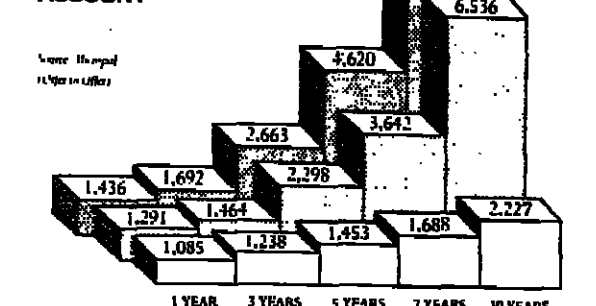
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A CHILDHOOD: DAVID BLUNKETT

'As a blind teenager, I once said "would you like to dance?" and it was to a man'

When David Blunkett was a few months old, it was realized that he was blind.

His mother, already in her forties and never very well, took the news badly. Her hair turned white and it was some time before she recovered from the shock. In 1947 there was not a great deal of guidance available for parents with handicapped children, particularly not on a Sheffield council estate. David's father worked for the Gas Board.

"My dad took my blindness much more practically. He would take me out for walks, me on my tricycle which he was supposed to keep on the end of a dog lead or rope. But sometimes he'd agree with me to let me go alone along the pavement, and on one occasion I went over the edge of the kerb and hit my head."

"He copped it from my mother, but he gave me a sense of adventure. He would take risks which parents don't do with youngsters who have handicaps."

The area of Sheffield in which they lived was not rough in the down-and-out sense, but poor in that the people who lived there had low-paid jobs — high in skill status in the steel working community, but low in wages.

At four he was sent to a special school for the blind in Sheffield. He still has strong memories about going there for the first time, a Sunday evening in 1951.

"It must have been September because I can remember the sunshine at tea-time (he can distinguish light from dark, and of course feel the sun) and the cathedral bells ringing and having to find my bed in the dormitory."

"The rule then was that we were only allowed home for a weekend every month, and our parents could come to see us on the Saturday in the intervening fortnights. I have fond memories of the place, of bathing in these big tin baths in the basement area and drying by an open fire, but I did feel very cut off from home. You miss the warmth and affection of the family."

"The problem with boarding school is that, inevitably, although the house mothers were loving and kind they weren't your family. They'd give me a good-night kiss and because I can remember looking forward to that good-night kiss I think it speaks volumes in terms of what I missed."

In those days there was only one boys' grammar school for the blind in the country and an exam based on the 11-plus taken at 12, had to be passed. Although he has subsequently shown he is very bright, David Blunkett failed.

The alternative was a boarding school in Shrewsbury. He was due to start in January 1960, but in the



Blunkett as a child, with friend

December his father was critically injured in an explosion at work. He died in early January. Two weeks later Blunkett left Sheffield for his new school.

"That would have been quite a traumatic time in anyone's life at the age of 12 — just coping with his death — and having to cope with the new school made it a very profound moment. My dad had worked for the Gas Board for 47

endless. "I finished school with no O levels because our headmaster did not believe examinations were necessary, a very laudable principle but absurd in a world where they mattered. People with disabilities have to be better qualified than anybody else before they are accepted."

From the school he moved to the adjoining college to take an office studies course, and began to go to night school to take his O levels. There were times of near despair. For months he had to force himself to get out of bed in the morning. "I wasn't sure if I'd pass the examinations, didn't know what was going to happen to me or whether I was going to be able to look after myself. I never want to experience that again."

Socially he felt awkward, slightly agoraphobic, screwing up his courage to get on a bus and find a seat, believing everyone was looking at him and thinking him peculiar. At home in Sheffield for the holidays he had to force himself to go to the youth club. It was far easier to stay home and listen to the radio.

"To go there meant you were breaking into other people's friendships. And if you wanted to ask someone to dance you could easily make a fool of yourself. It's true that I've said 'would you like to dance?' and it has been to a man. It's funny now, but it

knocks you at the time. "I still find it difficult in an environment where I'm on my own — station buffets, for instance, where if you're blind you become a captive audience because you can't choose whom you want to talk to."

At 20, he returned home finally to Sheffield and the Royal National Institute for the Blind's employment division suggested he might get a job with the Gas Board in view of his father's long service.

He did and was quickly made shop steward because there wasn't one. By now he had set his sights on becoming a teacher and began to do A levels as well as the National Certificate in Business Studies as a day-release student. Every night, every weekend, was for studying. "Looking back, I didn't have a lot of fun," he says.

He chose to study for a degree in political theory and institutions at Sheffield University because he could be at home after spending much of his life away.

"I don't know to this day how I pushed myself into going to university. No one in my family or in the neighbourhood had an academic background. Often people underestimate the difficulties for children from homes where there isn't a tradition of higher education. It isn't just a matter of money. There is often a psychological block preventing youngsters from seizing opportu-



David Blunkett and his guide dog Offa: "I didn't want to be better than anyone else, just equal. And I wanted to show my mother I could do it"

nities which are taken for granted by those who have always had those opportunities."

Ambition forced him to take his opportunity. By now he had his first guide dog (the first dog to be allowed into the Palace of Westminster when, on a visit, he was told no dogs could be admitted and created a fuss), and had been elected as a councillor to Sheffield City Council when a vacancy occurred. Even today, to be a city councillor at 22 is unusual. In 1970 it was unheard of. He was certainly a serious young man.

When asked when childhood ended, he has two answers. Having to look after himself away

from home for so much of his boyhood meant, he feels, he missed much that childhood usually offers. So he grew up early in that sense.

Emotionally, however, he was a late developer. "Living at home I found my mother was inevitably over-protective towards me and I was over-keen to set myself up independently, to break away and to establish my normality and be just like everybody else."

Married at 23 while at university (he and his wife Ruth, from whom he is now separated, have three sons: Alastair, 12, Hugh, 9,

and Andrew, 7) he took an upper-second at Sheffield (while the other undergraduates were into student politics, he was doing the real thing). For a time he toyed with the idea of journalism, but then went into teaching as tutor of industrial relations at Barnsley College of Technology.

But politics was the greater draw and from 1980 to 1987, when he entered Parliament, he was the leader of Sheffield City Council. Today he moves confidently around Westminster with his guide dog Offa, more a politician

than a parliamentarian, he says, interested in getting things done. It is difficult to imagine him being content in opposition. Despite the special help he receives, the braille writer and the readers who dictate information on to cassettes for him, reading is the problem it has always been and always is for the blind person. Today the rough edges have gone. The ambition he feels now is quite different from the drive of the blind youngster who felt he was up against it in life. David Blunkett wants only to do a good job as a politician and to be judged on that — not as a blind man, but as an equal.

by Ray Connolly

The last word in launch parties

My north-westerly colleague, Mr. Ned Sherrin, seems to be invited to all the most sparkling parties, where the theatrical meet to exchange *bons mots* with the even more theatrical. But for many people the business of party-going is a more irksome and onerous affair. Every now and then this column will chronicle the less successful parties that take place every night in the capital. The first is the launch party for this month's major new publication, *The State of the Language* (Faber, £17.50), a widely-reviewed symposium of essays by academics and practitioners who feel strongly about the meaning behind the meaning of words.

I was a member of the committee for *The State of the Language* launch party, and I must now admit, I had long suspected that it was destined to be an infamous affair. I mentioned as much to my fellow committee member Mr. Kingsley Amis, as we went into the first meeting together.

"Infamous? Infamous?" he spluttered. "What do you mean infamous? My dictionary defines infamous as 'evil fame or reputation, shameful villainy'. Is that what you really mean? Make yourself clear!"

"Oh, no, it won't be as bad as that," I replied. "Hopefully." Amis's face darkened and his brow began to twitch in uncontrollable fury. Had I said something wrong? I thought that I had better do something to patch things up, so I said: "To be honest, I'm not all that interested in the state of the language. In fact, you might say that I was thoroughly disinterested in it."

Oddly enough, he failed to seize the olive branch, proceeding to his seat in the committee room with tears pour-

ing down his cheeks. Perhaps I had said the wrong thing.

Professor Ricks, who had edited the book, kicked off the meeting by introducing himself as the Chairman of the Launch Party. "Chairperson, if you wouldn't mind," interjected Ms Sandra M. Loopee, reader in Wrongfully Assumed Male Dominance at the University of Milwaukee.



CRAIG BROWN

"My mistake," said Ricks. "My mistake what?" said Professor Clive Grump, who has done so much to improve the language of prison life with his pioneering work *Grammar in the Slammer*. "My mistake" does not constitute a sentence, as it is without verb or object."

"Pardon," said Ricks. Glancing over at Amis, I could see him bristle. "Next he'll be saying 'Cheers,'" I heard him mumble to himself.

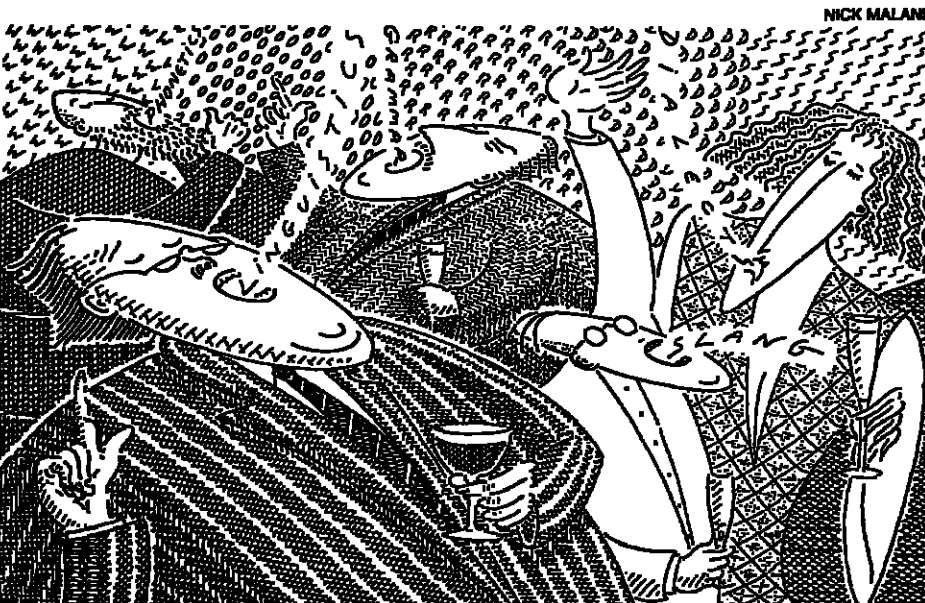
The wording of the invitation alone took a full five hours to sort out. "The Chairperson and Members of the Committee Request The Pleasure of Your Company" was thrown out on a number of grounds, the feminist linguists among us protesting that the word "members" was shot through-and-through with the murky stain of male dominance, while Marxist post-structuralists objected that the possessive adjective before the word

"company" (itself a word reeking of capitalism and corporatism) signified an outdated belief in the myth of individual personality. On the other hand, the traditionalists, among them the current Oxford Professor of Advanced Pedantry, pointed out that the *Oxford English Dictionary* gave a primary definition of the word pleasure as "sensual enjoyment as a strict object of life or end in itself", and they wished to dissociate themselves most vehemently from any such pronunciation.

The phrase "Please bring this invitation with you" proved equally calamitous, Sandra M. Loopee believing that the word invitation represented an unnecessary degree of obedience to the dominant order and arguing for the less class-based "Please bring this text with you".

In the end, it was agreed that seven different invitations would be printed to meet all the various needs. Alas, the invitation printed especially for Mr. Amis — "Bring a bottle and bird" — was sent by mistake to Mr. Enoch Powell, who, acting in strict accordance to the letter of the invitation, arrived with a cockatoo on his shoulder. When the chairman expressed his astonishment, Mr. Enoch Powell explained that he had expressly NOT brought a bat, as a bat was, of course, not a bird but a mammal.

Wine sir? A waiter said to Mr. Powell as he entered the crowded room check-by-jowl with other learned experts. "Is that to which you refer with wine an 'h' or wine in which the 'h' is absent?" replied Mr. Powell. "For if it is the former, I am not by nature a whines, and must, therefore, decline your request, and if it is the latter, I



would prefer a glass of water, that is to say a glass in which the requisite amount of water has previously been deposited for consumption by those overtaken by thirst."

Poor Ricks had quite some trouble getting the dancing going, I'm afraid. He thought that a quick rollock through the "Hokey Cokey" might prove an ice-breaker, but instead it proved a minefield. "Could you all form a circle," he said, and, in seconds, havoc had broken out. Some had begun to draw small circles on pieces of paper, while others had formed literary and artistic circles, and were busy issuing manifestos and forming ill-fated attachments to one another.

"You put your left arm in," began Ricks when most people had taken their places. "Is that your left or your right?" asked the Oxford Professor of Advanced Pedantry. "When you say 'you put your left arm in', do you mean

you will be putting, you should put, you have put, you will have put, or, indeed, you will have been putting?" asked Arthur S. Crank of the Boston Institute of Hair-Splitting. "Left and right is outmoded terminology signifying an unquestioning belief in hierarchical and linear distinctions representing a desire for the fragmentation of the political structure of the ruled by those ruling," chipped in Sandra M. Loopee. "I would therefore prefer us all to sing. 'A hand has or may have been put in, a hand has or may have been put out.'"

"In where? Out where?" asked Thomas P. Szitt, the noted linguistic theoretician. "The instructions are hopelessly vague." "One should not forget, of course, that hand has an important secondary meaning of 'help or assistance'," Professor Klutz reminded us, "and as my own hand was not invited, I am afraid that I will

have to sit this one out." Alas, when the command, "Do the Hokey Cokey and turn around" was issued by Ricks, the rifle of learned hands through Volume H of the OED was quite deafening, and the already sporadic dancing came to a complete standstill as each person tried to discover what on earth Ricks was on about.

Party games, too, left much to be desired. "We're now into a Party-Games Situation," announced Ricks, and from the corner of the room emerged the distinct thud of Kingsley Amis keeling over on the floor in horror, the word situation engraved upon his heart. Past-the-Parcel was a wash-out, as a number of experts, misinterpreting the command, strove, with scant success, to Parse the Parcel. The party fizzled to a close soon afterwards. Will the book be a greater success than the party? Hopefully.

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THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN

Spread out the Vegemite

Australia: I acclimatized on the plane by spreading the Vegemite thick and plundering the Australian news sheets. I prepared myself for unnatural heat, punch-ups between police and Aborigines and a strange new vocabulary. In the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Jodi Whiting (16) pronounced on the New Year celebrations: "Last year it was really 'grouse'. This year it was just boring." If grouse means good it will describe my journey.

As we Qantassed our way comfortably across the sub-continent, winking tidily, I swear that from 33,000ft I caught a glimpse of the Taj Mahal in floodlight if not moonlight and, yes, it did look like a biscuit tin.

I am in an English colony. Victor Spinetti is already here. Elton John is expected. Mike Burt is artist in residence at the Sydney Conservatoire. Ivor Spencer is teaching young Australians how to be butlers and there is an invasion of European wasps (*Vespa Germanica*). These have been here since 1958 and are believed to have arrived via New Zealand in a crate of Second World War aircraft parts.

On arrival I was welcomed with three iced lime daiquiris at the Sydney Festival Club in the grounds of the Hyde Park Barracks, a beautiful building which started its ugly life as a convict prison. Music was pounded out by a rock group called Fargone Beauties (say it aloud in a heavy Australian accent). Thirty hours after waking in World's End I fell asleep in the spare room of my host, Ken Groves, in Potts Point, Woolloomooloo.

I CAME HERE to open Victor Spinetti's one-man show at the Playhouse Theatre in the Sydney Opera House complex and to host a two-continent edition of *Loose Ends* 24 hours after I landed. A

10am transmission in London means a 9pm start from this end.

At 8pm I was in the middle of a cocktail party at the Copplesons, whose handsome house in smart Rose Bay has a spectacular view up the harbour towards the glowing skyscrapers of north Sydney. The foreground picture beyond the garden wall is white sand and big, friendly, strutting grey gulls.

Regular readers will not be surprised to hear that I nearly failed to make it to the 2BL ABC studio in King's Cross. ABC shares this neck of the wood with the famous red-light workers. I was assured that Rose Bay was a mere five minutes away and that it is the easiest place in Australia to get a taxi.

As I waited, the heavens opened and giant stabs of electric storm carved up the sky. I huddled under an awning, joined by a pretty girl who described herself as a model. We agreed to share a cab. I dropped her in pouring rain at the corner of Williams Street. It was now that the driver decided he did not know where 2BL was and suggested I hunt for it on foot.

Yes, he did understand I did not know my way, indeed he had felt much the same recently in Norway when he found himself stranded with a backpack and a broken leg. As he drove off I saw two friendly ladies of the night standing by the kerb in bright plastic macs. They had never heard of 2BL.

When I returned after circling the building a few times, they had been replaced on their beat by two even more friendly statuesque six-footers with much deeper voices and no better information.

By now it was 8.45pm and, considerably bedraggled, I spotted the box-office of the tiny Crossroads Theatre, advertising Frank McGuinness's play *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching to the Somme*. I reckoned that any company with

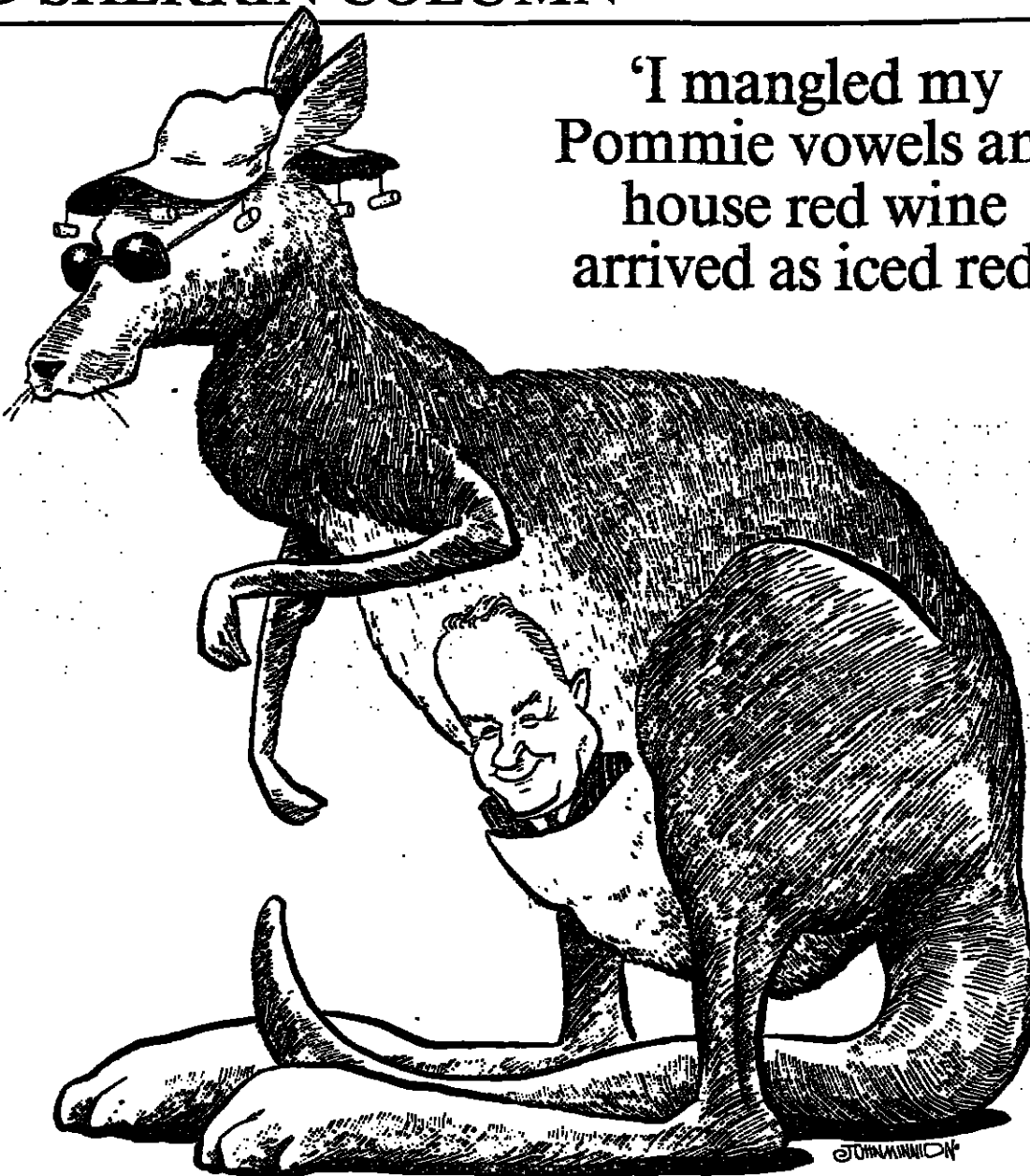
the nous to put on a play which won a Standard Most Promising Newcomer Award would know how to get to a radio station. They did.

A fascinating interviewee on the show was Valerie Taylor, a shark photographer who worked on *Jaws* I and II. She has had her leg bitten through by an Ocean Blue which she was tempting with minced mackerel far off the coast of California (he preferred leg to mince), her hand gnashed by another and her chin opened up by a frenzied Grey Nurse Shark off Queensland. She firmly believes in shark conservation.

For all the sophistication of Sydney and its imaginative building developments, circling sharks, blazing bush fires, crook crocs, blinding lightning, burning sun and bronzed bodies are a constant reminder of the nearness of nature.

I HAVE NEVER known Spinetti as

'I mangled my Pommie vowels and house red wine arrived as iced red'



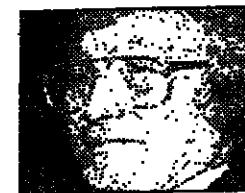
FRANCES EDMONDS

If I were...

If I were Ron Brown, left-wing Labour MP for Edinburgh Leith, I would be recovering from the champagne celebrations of my "moral victory" at Lewes Crown Court this week. Ever a man of action rather than argument, a proclivity best exemplified by my virtuoso mace-bashing performance, I would not tax my intellect with minor semantic problems. How a conviction for criminal damage can be described as a victory, I would not bother to explain. What morality has to do with a sorry saga of adultery and knickers, I would not condescend to say.

As the dust and the flying Riesling bottles settled, I would start to count my many blessings. First, I would realize that in my wife, May, I have a pearl without price. What a lucky man I am to have the missus lay the blame exclusively on "the other woman". Second, I would hope to continue to count on the indulgence of my long-suffering constituents, the sort of people whom I assume "will not bother too much about the criminal damage". In a moment of doubt, I would wonder whether this image of anti-establishment, Scottish hooliganism is one they would choose. But such a rare bout of sensitivity would swiftly pass.

Only then would I start to worry about the fines, compensation and costs that I must pay. Recalling the second career of that other notorious left-wing self-publicist, Derek Hatton, I would find myself an agent



... Ron Brown

and immediately set about my public relations talents. For obvious reasons, I would promise to eschew any future photo opportunities with my old friend, Colonel Gaddafi. These, I would belatedly concede, have all the PR appeal of a pile-up on the M25. Instead, I would start to frequent establishments such as Stringfellow's with a couple of aspiring Page Three "researchers" draped nonchalantly around my neck.

Lucrative offers would soon come pouring in. From the platform of my new "Agony Uncle" column, I would dispense advice to the nation's harassed housewives, to women trying to cope with hard-drinking, bad tempered and two-timing husbands. "Send them to the House of Commons," I would helpfully suggest. "It will not solve the problem, but at least there they will be less likely to stand out."

Before long I would be advertising an expensive range of men's toiletries, quite possibly "Homme Savage". Soft-focus shots of yours truly, cavorting merrily in the shower, would dominate every department store. Soon I would be hosting my own television chat show and within weeks it would have an enormous cult following. Only then, as I started counting my cash, would I realize there is more to life than the frustrations of back-bench opposition. I would think back over my parliamentary career, a decade punctuated all too regularly by futile gestures, counter-productive rebellion and pointless iconoclasm. Overcome, not so much by shame as by a sudden sense of futility, I would decide to do the Labour party a favour. Noisy and nouveau riche, I would become a Conservative MP.



There are some things in life which are just made for each other. Sadly, there are also those which are not. Many a relationship is destined to fail, though the reasons are not always so apparent. Take a beautifully engineered cassette deck. Pair it with a top class tuner and they may get on like a house on fire. But introduce them to an amplifier which proves to be unsympathetic and the reception may not be so hot. Any further additions will only compound the problem and a marriage that should have been made in heaven will, inevitably, end up on the rocks. Guidance is called for and, thankfully, it is not far away. A Pioneer 'Collection' will get you off to the perfect start. Each 'Collection' brings together an amplifier, a tuner and a cassette deck and each component is ideally suited to the others. Together they provide the firmest of bases on which to build the most stable of relationships.

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OUT AND ABOUT

Continuing his tour of Britain's top tourist attractions, Nigel Andrew visits the Viking Centre in York

Giving Vikings a bad name

Winter is the time of year when York's phenomenally popular Jorvik Viking Centre comes into its own. Emerging from under the mass tourist assaults of the summer, it shows itself in a different, less garish light to the off-season visitor. Now it becomes possible to make a leisurely inspection and get the proper measure of the place.

The Viking Centre is tucked away in the "tasteful" modern Coppergate shopping precinct, an apt enough location for the lion of commerce to lie down with the lamb of archaeology. Or would it be apter to talk of a shotgun marriage? Certainly Jorvik brings archaeological research and the "leisure industry", museum and "concept", into startlingly close contact.

What pulls in the visitors in their hundreds of thousands is not the excellent museum of "finds" from this hugely important Viking site, or the mock-up research lab and explanation of archaeological



Fact or fiction? The Time Journey, which looks very much like a fairground ghost train, may pull in the punters, but it also seems to present a deeply falsified version of the past

'The Vikings were certainly not just like us, but they were a great deal more like human beings than these dingy, grotto-dwelling grotesques'

techniques. It is not even the chance of seeing *in situ* genuine Viking house timbers, waist-high, as preserved for 1,000 years in waterlogged soil. What pulls them in is the Time Journey, and the Time Journey keeps the York Archaeological Trust in funds, thus enabling it to get on with its serious work.

The notice that greets you as you descend into the centre's spanking modern stairwell is a beauty. "Time Journey" it says, with an arrow pointing right, and "Toilets" with an arrow pointing left, and that's it. But first a series of posters and a silent video (of Viking arts and crafts) give some useful background information on the Vikings — for which the summer queues must be grateful. There is a very loud soundtrack of marauding Vikings a-pilaging and a-looting.

The start of the Time Journey looks very much like a fairground ghost train. You step into your four-seater car and it moves off — backwards. This is because you are travelling backwards in time past a sequence of dramatically posed

effigies representing the passing centuries. The reassuring voice of Magnus Magnusson comes out of the darkness, along with an historically regressive babble of street cries, noises, shouts and period songs.

"Pack Up Your Troubles" plays as you glide past a First World War soldier with a wounded arm and an imbecilic grin. A hollow-cheeked woman holds her dead child, a periwinkle fox represents the 18th century, and so it goes on, back in very little time to the great fire of York in 1069. This is represented by flickering lights showing through a wattle wall.

Various smells hang in the air, giving a general impression of burnt kippers. Shortly after the fire, Magnusson informs us that time has stopped. Our car certainly has, and here we are in Viking York (or rather Jorvik). We move forward now, slowly, in a series of hairpin bends, through

a reconstructed Viking settlement, all made of wood and thatch, wattle and earth, busy, crowded and "frozen in time". The inhabitants are petrified in mid-gesture, dogs paralysed in mid-flight, geese in mid-hiss.

The noise by now is deafening and full of snatches of Viking, making it hard to attend to poor old Magnusson. And the smells are coming thick and fast. I kept getting Unidentifiable and Burnt Kippers Again. Even as we passed the cesspit and the farmyard animals, I only caught a mild whiff of pigs. Perhaps I was starting a cold.

As far as the buildings and artefacts go, this looks like a pretty convincing simulation of Viking town life. But the Jorvik Centre claims to reproduce the actual experience of being in a Viking city, and this it signally fails to do. In fact, it presents a deeply falsified version of the past.

Apart from the noise — which makes modern York seem by comparison a haven of peace and quiet — and the unreal stasis, the chief problem is with the figures inhabiting this supposed Viking settlement. The past was not populated with grotesque, dwarfish troglodytes, hobgoblins and trolls, grinning and speaking through closed lips. But the Jorvik Viking Centre is.

Ugly, nasty, brutish and short, locked in postures of strain and exertion, these creatures of a twilight underworld can only be struggling towards the sunlit uplands of the late 20th century: that is the subtext.

They are plainly other, a different species, and the Time Journey's striving after immediacy only renders them the more remote and unreal. This is as serious a falsification as its opposite, which would make the people of all ages just like us. The

Vikings were certainly not just like us, but they were a great deal more like us — and like human beings — than these dingy, grotto-dwelling grotesques.

The other powerful objection to the Jorvik Centre and similar enterprises (the Oxford Story, the Canterbury Pilgrim's Way) is that they present the visitor with a completely passive experience. The whole thing is prepackaged, predigested, with no scope for making your own explorations, asking questions, drawing your own conclusions. The charge does not quite stick in this case, as the Jorvik Centre does include a small museum in which the visitor can wander freely. But the Time Journey not only spoonfeeds you its version of the past, it works your jaws as well.

However, the Jorvik approach

is undoubtedly effective and, popular, especially with children. From its amusing insistence on matters cloacal — latrines, fossilized excrement, moss used as lavatory paper — to its Jorvik Club, its well stocked souvenir shop and Viking mint where visitors can strike their own coins, the centre doesn't miss a trick. Whatever else it may be, it is certainly fun — and if your children drag you there against your will at least you can console yourself with the thought that it is all in a good cause.

And you might like to imagine, as you trundle through the Viking town, the inhabitants coming to life, nudging each other in disbelief and saying, "Hey, Sven — Do you see what I see?"

● The Jorvik Viking Centre, Coppergate, York, is open daily in winter, 10am-5.30pm. Admission £2.75, child £1.35. OAP £2. The Jorvik Viking Festival runs from Feb 3-24. Festival information (904 611944) Mon-Fri.

OUTINGS

BRITISH HORSE AND RIDER SHOW: Veterinary advice, clubs and societies, clothes, saddles, tack and other equipment, plus show jumping. Wembley Exhibition Hall, Wembley, Middlesex. Today, tomorrow 10am-6pm.

ULSTER MUSEUM EVENTS: "Dolls and Childhood", an exhibition drawn from the museum's collections which shows the development of children's dolls from the mid-18th to the mid-20th century. Also tomorrow, 2.30-4.30pm, Deirdre Crone and Winifred Glover from the Antiquities Department demonstrate pottery techniques. Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast (0232 381251). Exhibition until Jan 28; Sat 1-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Free.

NEW YEAR'S ANTIQUES FAIR: More than 700 stands selling a wide range of items. Among the many stands is one selling a variety of sporting equipment from the turn of the century to 1930. The Great Hall, Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London N22 (01-366 2121). Tomorrow 11.30am-5pm. Free shuttle service from Wood Green Underground station. Adult £2, accompanied child free.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND: The Northcott Theatre's production of Carroll's classic fantasy adventure adapted for the stage and with additional lyrics by John Wells, music by Carl Davis. Northcott Theatre, Stocker Road, Exeter. Today 2.30pm and 7.30pm, and at regular intervals until Jan 27. Adult £5.50-£8, child £4-£6.50. Box-office (0392 54853).

DENBY DALE CIRCULAR: Family walks planned to introduce children and parents to the fun of the countryside. Today's walk covers three miles and is easy. Wear sensible shoes and dress. Denby Dale, West Yorkshire. Today. Meet Lesley Parsons at 1.15pm at the Railway Station. Approach Road, under the viaduct on the A636.

BRIDGEWATER BOATS OPEN DAY: Another opportunity to visit the company which specializes in narrowboat holidays. Bridgewater Boats, Castle Wharf, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire (0442 853615). Tomorrow 10am-4pm.

THE WITCH AND THE MAGIC MOUNTAIN: Last chance to see the Oxford Stage Company and Arts Centre joint production written by Renata Allen with music by Howard Goodell. The musical play is based on fairytales and legends from around the world. Arts Centre, University of Warwick. Today 2.30pm and 7pm. Tickets £4-£7.50, box-office (0203 417417).

WHITLESLEY STRAW BEAR FESTIVAL: Colourful traditional event in which a "straw bear" tours the town, visiting public houses on the way, accompanied by musicians, dancers, jesters and jugglers. Market Place, Whitlesley, Cambridgeshire. Today 10.30am-3.30pm.

Judy Froshaug

CAMPUS

When freedom is hard to believe

Catherine Hickley, a British graduate teaching English at the University of Halle, near Leipzig, reports on the revolutionary changes in East Germany



ulating. "Modern English", as it is called and printed on greyish paper, is full of turgid texts about obscure British communists and gives a very distorted picture of Britain. A new textbook is on the way, but will probably not be published for a few years. Fortunately, I have managed to persuade the British Embassy to send me 10 copies of a textbook published in Britain which contains much livelier themes, and have also prepared many texts myself.

At present, however, all the students want to talk about is the current situation in their country, although this was not the case at the beginning of the term. Then, some seminar groups were willing to speak on the subject, but others were highly reticent, usually because they suspected one or more of their fellow-students of being a member of the Stasi, the East German secret police.

The students have an incredibly full timetable, often with as many as 35 hours of lessons a week. This is partly due to what they see as unnecessary extras, such as compulsory sport and two hours of Marxism and Leninism a week, but much of this is now changing. All my students are studying to become teachers, either of English and

from every wall, window-frame and ceiling. Almost everyone has a television, fridge, electric cooker and hi-fi, but washing machines are rarer, and video recorders non-existent. The flats are always very comfortable and homely.

Halle is a very dirty town in an industrial area not far from Leipzig. It is renowned for its dreadful pollution, and for being the birthplace of Handel. The pollution is indeed very bad, and in the last months the smog in the town centre has been terrible. People always say to me "Just like London!" and are often quite disappointed when I tell them that since the Sixties the smog in London has been virtually eliminated.

Entertainment is also cheap thanks to government subsidies: many of the students in the department go to the theatre, cinema or concerts two or three times a week. Unfortunately some of the actors in one of the theatre companies have left for the West. There also seems to be a great shortage of waiters and waitresses in the Halle cafes; again because people have left the country, I still have some students on my register who left for the Federal Republic during the summer, through Hungary or Czechoslovakia, and have heard many others discussing whether or not to leave.

Although, politically, the situation has changed, economic improvements will, of course, take much longer. People are growing frustrated at not being able to buy the things they want because they are not available in the shops, while West German television regularly carries advertising for luxury items.

Re-unification with the FRG is the question on everyone's lips, but opinions are varied. Many students are strongly against it, feeling that the GDR will be swallowed up in the mass of Germany, and will completely lose any identity it might have had.

They fear the negative aspects of a capitalist society: unemployment, armed crime, drugs and terrorism.

OUTDOORS

The tale of the little grey sheep

The Herdwick flocks that Beatrix Potter hoped to protect after her death with her final bequest are facing an uncertain future, Ronald Faux writes

immensely tough, living unprotected on the highest fells. However, it produces fewer lambs than other breeds. The meat is succulent but there is less of it: the wool that protects them from a rugged climate is tough, wiry and full of grease.

In the world of genteel fashion none of these is a selling quality, and this season's 95,500 kilos of dark Herdwick wool failed to attract a single bidder at the auctions in Edinburgh and Bradford. It now lies in warehouses, awaiting some new trend for hair shirts perhaps, or for carpets or cloth which is pure, natural and ozone-friendly.

The ewes are more than a commodity — a fact which the community feels is unappreciated by the slide-rule economists. The hill farmers depend on the sale of animals for breeding, and on their meat for their

livelihood. The wool clip is an added bonus, but as that price deteriorates and the EC takes a bleaker attitude towards hill farm subsidies, the farmers increase the size of their flocks to maintain their income, which puts them at odds with the conservationists, who complain about over-grazed hills. The Herdwick wool clip has doubled in volume in two years.

The farmers point out that although Herdwicks are the only breed that could be expected to survive in the valley head farms, some believe it would be good to try to inject a different breed into the strain to produce a more marketable product.

Herdwick sheep farming was once the main industry of the Cumbrian hills, although tourism has now outstripped it in economic importance. But tourism depends on an attractive landscape and the upkeep

of its walls and buildings. Without the sheep, the reason for walls and farm buildings is gone, dereliction prevails and an old and worthwhile community cannot be sustained.

The balance is delicate between maintaining a fragile landscape, and giving hill farming communities a sense that they are not being paid to do nothing or producing a commodity no one wants to buy.

The National Trust, the British Wool Marketing Board and a number of textile companies and polytechnics in the North are researching new uses for the Herdwick wool and new ways to market it. In one year, recently, Japanese buyers bought the entire Herdwick clip; the next year they bought nothing, showing the fickleness of the fashion industry.

They are investigating ways to create new materials from the wool for making clothing and carpets. This summer thousands of visitors to National Trust property will test a new kind of hard-wearing carpet tile. If the new ideas succeed there is more chance that Beatrix Potter's grey sheep and their shepherds will live happily ever after.

The standard cautious meteorological line about the current abnormal weather is that it is not yet clear whether it is evidence of the greenhouse effect or just part of a natural cycle. But the subject of weather cycles is a black art, full of acrimony and dispute. So in this context, what is a natural cycle?

Claims of weather cycles date back to the biblical story of Joseph's dream that seven years of dearth would follow seven years of plenty. In the 17th century Francis Bacon noted that a 35-year rhythm was the subject of inquiry in the Low Countries. This periodicity became better known due to the work of the Swiss professor Bruckner in the late 19th century.

The greatest impetus for weather cycles came from a discovery by Heinrich Schwabe in 1843 that there

In the rhythm

WEATHER EYE

was an 11-year cycle in the number of sunspots. This led to speculation that the weather could vary in the same way, and a search for evidence of this continues to this day.

By the 1920s more than 100 different periodicities had been discovered. But, in almost every case, further investigation showed that these cycles came and went in a tantalizing manner, and none proved a reliable basis for forecasting weather behaviour.

What has emerged from all this work is that there is only limited evidence of cycles, and these fall into two main cate-

gories. First, there are a few examples of cycles of around 11 and 22 years which appear to be linked to solar variability. Secondly, the natural variability of the global climate appears to produce regular fluctuations on almost any timescale from a few years to a few centuries.

The most convincing example of a solar link is the 22-year (approximately) cycle in the index of drought in the central United States. An oscillation of between two and two and a half years, known as the Quasi-Biennial Oscillation (QBO), appears in many meteorological records.

One example that has excited considerable interest in recent years is the apparent link between the well-established QBO in the upper atmosphere winds and the 11-year solar cycle. This may provide better predictions of certain meteorological events, including winters in the United States.

Researchers are still sceptical, however, as there is currently no scientific explanation for the behaviour. All that can be said is that the climate fluctuates on every timescale from a few years to a few centuries. But past changes have not been adequately explained and future variations cannot be predicted with any certainty. So there is no way of telling if current events are part of a natural cycle or the start of the greenhouse effect.

W. J. Burroughs

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Passport to a crisis



Tel Aviv Airport is a confusion of noise and tears, as bewildered Russians, the women in headscarves or wool-

len hats, the men flashing gold teeth and wheeling trolleys piled high with possessions, embrace Israeli officials armed with flowers, money and advice on housing and jobs. Set free by the Gorbachov reforms but barred from America by new US limits on immigration, Soviet Jews are pouring into Israel at the rate of 500 a day on flights from Budapest, Bucharest, and even directly from Moscow.

Reeling under the shock of this massive wave of immigration, or *aliya*, which far exceeds earlier immigration from Russia in the Seventies under *démence*, Israeli officials are talking of a "national emergency", and the army reportedly has plans to hand over military camps for temporary housing. Shimon Peres, Israel's finance minister, has asked Israeli industry to create 20,000 new jobs this year; David Levy, the housing minister, has pledged to build or renovate 30,000 new flats. More than 100,000 Soviet Jews are expected this year, as well as immigrants from Eastern Europe and Ethiopia. Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, has set up a special task force to cope with immigration, and speaks of a million Soviet Jews to be successfully absorbed within the next three to five years, with American Jewish organizations providing the estimated \$1 billion a year needed.

But at Gilo on the outskirts of Jerusalem, in one of Israel's 38 absorption centres, the cramped and squalid conditions tell another story. The system is simply bursting at the seams. The flats do not yet exist, or are far beyond the means of the new arrivals, while the jobs are also sought by Israel's own unemployed. In some cases, the airport tears of joy soon turn to tears of disappointment and despair.

Avram Rodstein, who arrived from the Ukraine a month ago

The Soviet Jews currently pouring into Israel are putting a severe strain on its resources,
Richard Owen reports

with his son, his daughter and her husband and their two children, stands weeping in a musty, bare room heated by one small gas fire (Jerusalem winters are cold), damp seeping through the plaster and mould sprouting from the ceiling. "They gave us pamphlets in Russian promising £300 in cash and free medicine for six months," he says in distress. "But I got only £100, and my son and son-in-law got nothing. And I have to pay for medicine for my heart condition. They told me the money was running out."



Others have similar stories. Dr Asya Shenderova, a former children's doctor from Moscow, sobs as she describes how the Israeli police have tried to evict her. She arrived three years ago, and immigrants are expected to find housing elsewhere after that time. "The bureaucracy here is worse than in Russia," she says bitterly. "We survived Hitler and Stalin, and thought we would be free in the country of the Jews, our own people. But here too they knock on the door in the middle of the night with eviction orders. I feel deceived, a third-class citizen."

According to the Jewish Agency, which helps to cope with immigration, such cases are not typical. "There is constant turnover at the absorption centres," says Gad Ben-Ari, the Jewish Agency's

spokesman. "Those left inside are the ones less able to find their feet in Israel." Some three-quarters of the new arrivals do not go to absorption centres, but stay with relatives or friends until they can find accommodation. For those who choose such "direct absorption" the authorities offer substantial help with the rent in the first year. Even at Gilo, some of the immigrants admit that living in a run-down room in Israel is preferable to staying in Gorbachov's Russia, "where you have to queue for two hours to get sausage, and the new freedoms include anti-Semitism".

Others say they wish they had stayed where they were. The growth of anti-Semitism in Russia is frequently cited by new arrivals as a reason for emigration. Yet paradoxically, many are barely aware of their Jewishness, and say openly that they would rather have gone to the US. "How can I get to America?" is often one of the first questions asked at the airport. "If I had known it would be like this, I wouldn't have come," said Sofia Polonskaya, a piano teacher from Leningrad. "My husband is a composer, and hopes to get a visa for Israel too. But if he knew the truth, he would try for America instead."

According to Julia Mirsky, a clinical psychologist at the Hebrew University who came to Israel in the 1960s and now helps immigrants to adjust, the tensions arise not because of high expectations, but because the new arrivals have no expectations at all.

In the Seventies we got committed Zionists such as Sharanovsky, who had been to prison for their beliefs," she says. "Their problems stemmed from the gap between the ideal and the reality. Many of the new immigrants have no ideals at all, no motivation, and they don't know Hebrew. They are not running to Israel, they are running away from Russia, which is quite different. They are refugees."

Others are concerned about the impact of the new Russian immigration on Israeli society. "Nearly all of them are right-wing, and will reduce the chances of an Israeli withdrawal from the occu-



Homecoming to an uncertain welcome: Soviet Jewish couple arriving at Tel Aviv Airport, lured by a pledge of help with money, jobs and housing.

pied territories as a path to peace," says Abraham Ben-Yakov, a Russian-Jewish journalist. "Moreover I fear friction between the Russian immigrants and the Sephardi Oriental communities." Already there are exclusive Russian enclaves in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, with Russian newspapers, vodka shops, and tell-tale satellite dishes for receiving Moscow television.

Simha Dimitz, head of the Jewish Agency, argues that the new Russian immigrants will fit in and will rediscover their Jewish roots. Israel "has never been better prepared to absorb a wave of immigration," he claims. Intensive courses in Hebrew and job retraining are being set up to make use of the new arrivals' professional qualifications (85 per cent of Soviet Jews have higher education).

But Israelis are critical of Peres for suggesting this week that, even without an overall absorption plan, Israel will "somehow manage", as it has in the past. They are even more critical of squabbling

between the finance ministry, the housing ministry and the absorption ministry over who is in charge of the "emergency".

Some suggest that Israel has less than a year in which to prove that it can find jobs and housing for the new arrivals. If the crisis worsens, experts say, the US might have to salvage the situation by reopening its doors. "That must not happen," says Ben-Ari. "We need the Russian Jews, and we want them. This is what the state of Israel was founded for. We must not fail."

"Either we will cope or there will be a catastrophe," says Yuri Stern, a former refusenik who now helps to run a pressure group called Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum. He believes that estimates of future immigration are, if anything, an underestimate, as families who arrive here invite those left behind to join them — unless, of course, those left behind are put off by the mounting difficulties.

When he returned to Moscow last month to attend the first ever conference of Soviet Jewish orga-

nizations, Stern was besieged by Soviet Jews submitting requests to come to Israel in the full realization that the Jewish state was not ideal. As East European nationalism has again come to the surface, and unpleasant right-wing organizations such as *Pamyat* (Memory) flourish in the Soviet Union, Stern says Jews are once again being "pushed out", and are even being used as scapegoats by Russians bewildered by the pace of change and the collapse of long-held illusions about Communism.



To try to ensure that Soviet Jews gain a "positive but not distorted" picture of life in Israel, Natan Sharanovsky, perhaps the best-known Russian immigrant to Israel, has produced a video film called *Our home in Israel*. The aim, he says, is to assure Russian Jews that Israel is not "a bureaucratic country where your life is in

the hands of clerks", but rather a country which has its problems, but in which "life is incomparably deeper and richer and far more meaningful" than in the Soviet Union.

The film shows four families in everyday activities such as queuing at the bank, shopping in a supermarket, and visiting a kibbutz. It also shows new immigrants having to come to terms with service in the armed forces. But Sharanovsky and Stern admit that many Russian Jews are put off by the "socialist" aspects, and even refuse to accept the red-coloured membership card produced by Israel's trade union organization, the Histadrut.

"Russians are very sensitive to propaganda," the maker of the film, Inna Shapiro, says. "If you show them good, they will automatically believe that it is bad." In the end, the problem of absorbing Russian Jews on a massive scale could prove as much a cultural and psychological challenge as a practical and financial one.

MUSEUMS

Europe's museums are packing off to Paris to display their wares, Simon Tait reports

Books have Frankfurt, films have Cannes, the visual arts have Venice Biennale Europe, and music has Salzburg. Now museums have their international jamboree which the organizers hope will be firmly fixed in the European calendar in the next couple of weeks: the Paris SIME.

The second SIME — officially the Salon International des Musées et des Expositions, a mixture of public exposition, trade fair and museum professionals' forum first held in 1988 — opens next Saturday in the Grand Palais, created in 1900 for the Universal Exhibition.

In its eight days, about 100,000 visitors will stroll around the presentation stands of 100 museums from nine European countries. With them will be not only European television and Press, but the American and Japanese media as well.

They will see museum stands designed by architects, including Aldo Rossi's for the West Berlin museums; they will see museums that haven't even been opened yet, such as Bonn's massive Kunsthalle, scheduled to open in 1992; they will see museums from Spain, Italy, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

They will also see a lot of French museums, but at the first SIME two years ago, which was five days long, 90 per cent of the representation was French. This year the proportion is 70-30. And last time there were no British museums. This year the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside (NMGGM) is to be the flagship for the UK flotilla.

"It's a tremendous opportunity to make contacts and to

Fair play in Paris



Paris-bound: Liverpool museum curator Yannick Minvielle-Debat cleans the "Ismay Silver"

tell the international community about what we are and what we've achieved," the director of the NMGGM, Richard Foster, says.

The NMGGM is five Liverpool museums, brought together three years ago by the Government to give a focus to the troubled inner city and to lead an urban revival.

The Merseyside Maritime Museum has helped the Albert Dock to become one of the North West's greatest tourist attractions. The Tate Gallery put the museological seal of approval on the dock by opening its branch in a James Sterling converted warehouse two years ago.

"The theme is to be the sea," Foster says. "It's where Liverpool drew its prosperity from, and we're sending many objects to celebrate our maritime connections."

The Titanic features largely in the display, because the ship was registered in Liverpool. So there will be such things as a first-class ticket, a lifeboat nameplate and a life jacket.

There will also be continuous demonstrations of how to put ships in bottles, by the maritime museum's resident expert, Des Newton. Half of the £15,000 cost of the foray into Europe is being met by sponsorship from the NMGGM's Friends groups and its Manchester-based public relations consultants, Crawford Hall.

We want to do a number of things in Paris, as well as introduce ourselves to a new public," Foster says. "We want to make contact with our European

colleagues and talk to them about exchanging exhibitions, swapping loans and our research work. We want to tell them about our education programme — particularly our new Natural History Centre [a runner-up in *The Times* Shell Community Museum Award competition held last year]. We want to interest European museums in our publications, and we want to see if we can attract sponsorship from European companies."

Representing the more avant-garde British museums will be the Museum of the Moving Image, a runner-up in *The Times* Shell Museums Year Trophy competition for innovation, which will be sharing a stand with other European museums of film and television.

The National Galleries of Scotland will be there, but not with objects. "We decided that

to take objects which would not suffer under the lights and in the changeable atmosphere would give the wrong impression," says Timothy Clifford, the director of the group.

On his stand he will recreate the theme of the main national gallery on Edinburgh's Mound, recently restored to its colourful mid-19th century appearance, with reproductions of some of the great paintings in the museums: Gauguin, Cézanne, Reynolds and Raeburn are among the masters whose work will be carrying the Scottish banner.

"I think we ought to be out there selling ourselves. I'm sad that our London colleagues are not able to be there, but in subsequent years you'll see more and more British museums at SIME," Clifford says.

The instigator and main organizer of SIME, with a budget of £1 million, is Jean-François Grunfeld, who wants the next event, in 1992, to be even bigger. "There were important museums which were not ready for SIME 1990, but who have booked for 1992, such as the Barcelona Museum. This year we have more space than last time, which has meant that we can give more room to the museums. For 1992 I hope we will have many more British museums, and I want to get the ratio of French to non-French museums down to 50-50."

"We have been encouraged by the number of curators who are coming from Britain. I've had a letter from the Area Museums Councils saying that they are sending between 20 and 30 managers."

"Having established SIME in Paris, I think that the main exhibition has to be held here every two years. You wouldn't expect the Frankfurt Book Fair to be anywhere else, would you?"

EXHIBITIONS

SACRIFICIAL RED: Glazed porcelain by Fance Franck, the French potter. A study of copper red glazing of the style perfected by the Jingdezhen potters of China in the 15th century. Study day planned next month for potters and teachers. Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford (0865 278000). Tues-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2-4pm. Admission free, donations welcome.

ILLUMINATION: The beauty of the painted word comes to Cambridge. Italian illuminated manuscripts from the 12th to 16th centuries show outstanding examples of religious art and the wealth of

the church which produced them. Including an introductory display which explains the principles of manuscript production. Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge (0223 332900). Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Admission free.

A BRIGHTER WORLD TOMORROW? Photographs by Henry Grant, a photographer working in London after the Second World War, which capture many of the historical social changes in the life of the capital during the Fifties.

Sixties and Seventies. Museum of London, London WC2 (01-600 3899). Tues-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2pm-6pm. Free.

VICTORIAN VALUES: Children pass verdict on half a day spent in a Victorian classroom, with paintings, poetry, prose, models and photographs. The local historical association and Sherratt and Hughes, the booksellers, award two cash prizes of £25 to the best entries on Wednesday. Joicy Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne (091 233 4562). Tues-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-4.30pm. Free.

John Shaw

COLLECTING

DORSET DELIGHTS: A selection of early oak furniture, including a George II side table (est £1,000-£1,500), a George III food cupboard with a ventilated upper section (est £1,500-£2,000) and, from the same reign, a good bow-fronted hanging corner cupboard (est £1,000). Also a ceramics section. Henry Duke & Son, 40 South Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1DG (0305 65080). Viewing: Mon, Tues, Wed from 9am; late viewing Tues until 7pm. Sale: Thurs 10.30am.

SUSSEX SURPRISES: 480-lot ceramics section is the final session in a comprehensive three-day sale covering many collecting fields. Sotheby's, Summers Place, Billingshurst, West Sussex

SALES

RH14 9AD (0403 789833): Viewing: tomorrow 2.30-5pm, Mon, Tues 9.30am-4.30pm. Sales: Tues 10.30am-2pm, Wed 10.30am-1pm, Thurs 10.30am.

CHESTER MOULDS: A collection of 4,000 late 19th-century carved wooden mirror and furniture moulds are being offered, the stock of a small company which produced ornamental decorations in Lancashire (est £950-£4,000). Also a 10-piece suite of drawing room furniture used when King George V and Queen Mary attended the Royal Agricultural Show, Derby, in 1933 (est £15,000-£25,000).

Sotheby's, 28-30 Watergate Street, Chester CH1 2NA (0244 315531): Viewing: today 9.30am-12.30pm, Mon 9.30am-4.30pm, Tues 9.30am-3.30pm. Sale: Wed 10.30am.

CUTLERY AND CANOESTICKS: A cased canteen of fiddle-pattern flatware for six (est £200-£250) is among several dinner party essentials in this sale of English and continental silver. There is also a canteen for eight (est £750-£1,000) and a third in king's pattern for 12 (est £1,600-£2,400). Bonhams, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 1HH (01-584 9161). Viewing: Sun 2.30-5pm, Mon 8.45am-7pm, Tues 9-10.30am. Sale: Tues 11am.

John Shaw

Rocking horse winners

I cannot tell how many rocking horses may be made in London every year," said a craftsman specializing in these traditional Victorian toys when interviewed by the *Morning Chronicle*. "Perhaps it may be calculated this way," he said. "There are 30 men employed in making rocking horses and every man can make two a week. That gives 3,120 a year."

What has happened to all the rocking horses? How many homes still sport one in the nursery or the attic? Or are they all in collections? And are there companies still manufacturing them?

To answer the last question first, there are about 10 companies, as well as a number of small one-man businesses, still making rocking horses in Britain.

And there are, of course, a number of large collections, notably at Pollocks Toy Museum, the Museum of London and the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood in London, and the Museum of Childhood in Edinburgh.

But the past few years have also seen an increase in the number of private collectors. It is still possible to find a traditional pillar stand rocking horse, carved out of wood blocks glued together, made at the beginning of this century. A good specimen of this type could cost more than £1,000, while for an early large Victorian bow rocker you must expect to pay in excess of £2,000 for a horse in any condition.

The best period was in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Horses dating from this time are highly stylized, with exaggerated features. They are

With a little horse sense, a classic toy can become a safe bet for an investment

inevitably on bow rockers and, if correctly identified, can fetch several thousand pounds untested. Dating models of this vintage is often very difficult, because very few of these early rocking horses bear a maker's name or label, and when they come up for sale they have usually been repainted. Generally, however, they were rather narrow, often painted with large irregular spots, and had their heads down in a racing position.

Rocking horses on pillar stands — otherwise known as safety stands — were an American idea that came to this country in the 1830s. The idea was to produce something more compact than the huge Victorian rockers.

The best-known manufacturer between 1850 and 1931 was Lines Brothers — which later, as Triang Toys, became a household name. The company had its headquarters in the Old Kent Road, London, and supplied leading stores such as Harrods with models that were sold as "own breed" horses.

Harrods still sells rocking horses of both types under its own label, but nowadays it is more common to buy new horses direct from manufacturers. A list of these can be

found in the only commonly available book on the subject, *Rocking Horses* by Margaret Fawcett, published in its second edition in 1989 by Pollocks Toy Theatres of Scale Street, London W1.

Nowadays the only constraints on the size of a collection are space and price. In the case of one of the largest collections in the country, owned by Elizabeth Organ, at Clyro, Hereford and Worcester, space is no problem as she lives in a large Georgian country house and spreads her collection over six rooms.

But price is a different matter. Organ started her collection 25 years ago and it now includes most types of horse. She managed to acquire most of them at very reasonable prices, but at the beginning of this year paid £600 for a pretty pillar stand horse dating from around 1890.

Finally, a word of warning from David and Noreen Kins, who make and restore rocking horses in West, Shropshire, and have been in the business for 17 years. They point out that many good-looking pillar stand horses are of sentimental value only. You can usually tell if a horse of this type has a good pedigree by looking at the posts that support it. If they are square the horse is likely to be a fairly ordinary one. If they are nicely turned it probably carries a far higher value.

You should also look at the quality of the carving, and glass eyes are an indication of a good maker. Another tell-tale feature is the quality of the top plates that hold the swinging irons on to the wooden top bar.

Clive Fewins

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EATING OUT

Tokyo on the Thames

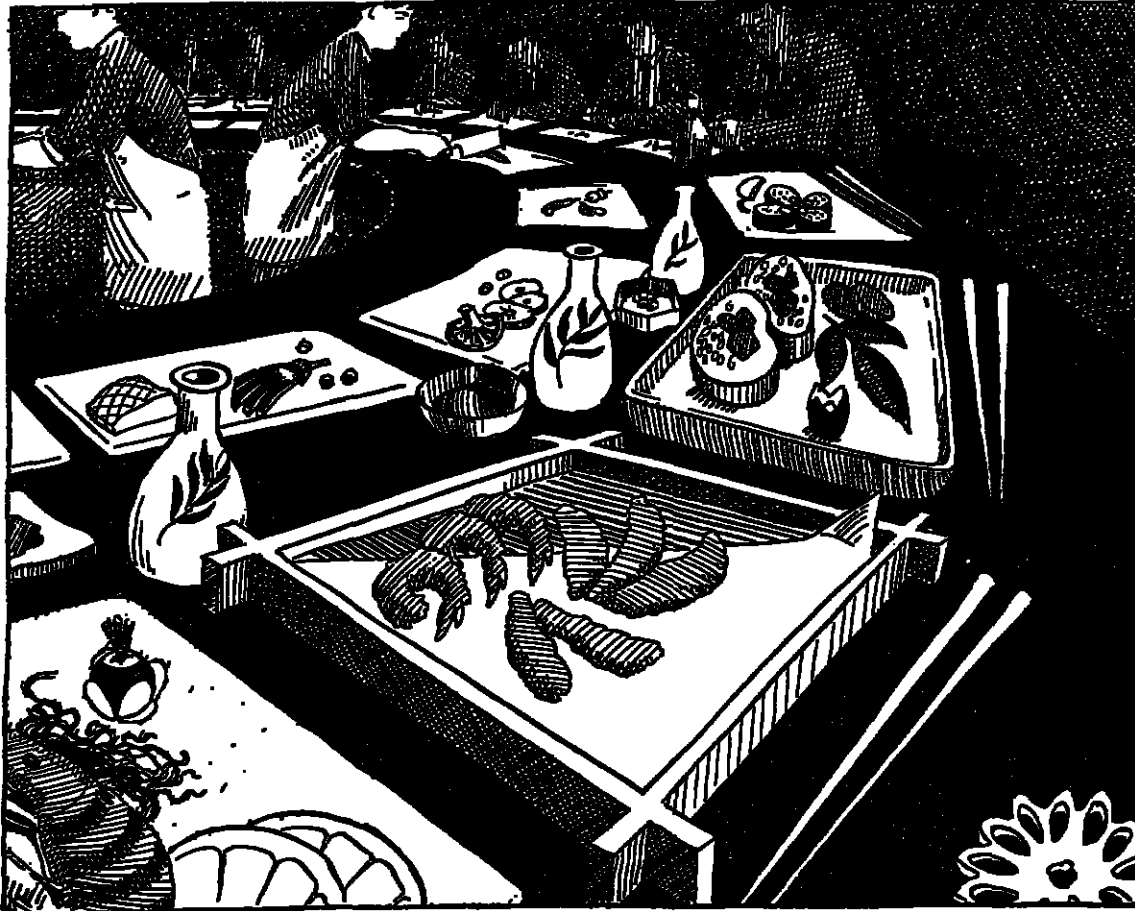
When we talk of forms of alien cooking being rendered "accessible" we are usually referring to some act of bowdlerization that is intended to court the timid tongues of a squeamish nation: small birds, inner organs, rotting fruit, fermented fish, reptiles — all these are happily scooped in various corners of the planet. But here? Despite this country being a market-place of the world's kitchens it still sports a puritanical rash of taboos.

The means, however, by which Japanese cooking has recently been rendered accessible are pecuniary rather than sub-gastronomic. A stratum of Japanese eating places that are readily affordable has appeared in the past few years. Equally good news is the fact that these places mostly offer an un-bowdlerized repertoire since they rely on (again, mostly) a Japanese clientele. Put simply, there are now two and a half tiers of Japanese restaurant in London: (a) Expensive, wall-to-wall folklore; fetishistic exquisiteness in the presentation of food; the wife is not convinced geishas aren't *filles de joie* and reckons you've been at a *sauna* 'n' massage with fancy food thrown in; (b) Expensive, half-hearted folklore; the same food; domestic harmony. The third, the smallest tier, is the winsome one: these restaurants are *canteen-like*, are unadorned or have been decorated by a gang who suffer daltonism, are less expensive than the expensive ones, do not constitute a tourist board conspiracy, and consequently peddle a sort of authenticity that has nothing to do with *kimonos* and *tasuki*. They are the gastronomic embassies of Tokyo now. They may not serve *figu* (blowfish), which unless it is correctly gutted and de-veined, will kill you (several hundred deaths per annum in Japan), but they do serve dishes which have not been amended for our (alleged) tastes. These quasi-canteens are, roughly, the equivalents of *tapas* joints. They fulfil the same function. They're for drinking in as much as for eating at: the small portions of different dishes are, supposedly, secondary to the bevies. The correct form, in Tokyo or Madrid, Osaka or Cadiz, is to fill up with sake or whisky or sherry, then to head off elsewhere for a proper dinner.

Because there is not a profusion of proper restaurants within staggering distance, the London form is to elide the two sorts of eating house. Nanten in Marylebone, Ninjin in west Euston, and Ikkyu in Totten-

Jonathan Meades visits London's latest Japanese restaurants

FRANCIS MOSLEY



ham Court Road are the leaders in this tier of London-Japanese restaurant or canteen.

They are now joined by a fourth called *Yoisho*. This is just around the corner from Ikkyu in Goudge Street, a street that still possesses a commercial mix of which we've probably seen the last: it's not just restaurants that are going to go to the wall because of the daffy homogeneous rate revaluations — stationery shops and butchers and clothes shops will do that way, too. Only chain-owned establishments will keep going, because they are subsidized by, say, pizza houses in Burslem and Gateshead. *Yoisho* is not among the likely survivors — but then very few worthwhile London restaurants are. It's not too difficult to foresee a time when only those with Cabinet salaries and above will be able to afford to eat in this capital; mere MPs will have to attend to the more modest restaurants in their constituencies. If I were Mr Julian Critchley, I'd book myself a permanent table in Johnny

Gurkha's of Aldershot till the end of the millennium. *Yoisho* is more akin to Ikkyu, its neighbour, than it is to the other places in its stratum. They do *pan-fried* tidbits; Ikkyu and it go downhome — but home to where, no one knows. They appear to serve some form of mountain-peasant cooking. They both do — and *Yoisho* does it better — a beef and potato stew. *Yoisho*'s is good to look at. It shows that Japanese cooking and its French avatar —

CORRECTION

ONE SIXTEEN In last week's column I mistakenly stated that the restaurant One Sixteen, in Knightsbridge, which I reviewed favourably in September 1989 (six stars), had closed. This is not the case. It was closed only over the Christmas and New Year holidays and is now open for business as usual. I apologise to the chef/proprietor Ian McAndrew and to any readers who have been misled.

nouvelle cuisine — do not have to be set out by a flower arranger to achieve a pleasing appearance. This dish is strikingly good to taste and looks good because of that expectation — the stew is the colour of NHS "tortoiseshell" glasses, the potato is Sam Brown. The potato, too, is not any old potato but one that keeps its shape during cooking.

Yoisho also does an unusual dish called "mountain potato". The dish itself, though, is impressive if you enjoy slime. It comprises potato, raw salmon and raw slime. The last is some sort of seaweed. It's the texture rather than the taste that might be off-putting. On the other hand the name of another dish, "fried frog", is more likely to choke you than is the fry-up on the plate, which is none other than the dismal old French dish of *frog's* legs. I've never previously eaten them in this country, and only once in France. The only reason that I can give for being friendlier to frogs than to other sources of meat is that other sources tend to taste better. The fish

here is excellent: the sashimi includes tuna, salmon, mackerel, cuttlefish, sole, prawn, octopus and marinated trout.

Offal-baters will hate the yakitori of chicken heart and beef tongue. Veggies will adore the deep-fried beancurd with ginger. The one sweet on offer was an ice-cream made of *suxup* oil flavoured with vanilla. Memorable for the wrong reason, just as the place is memorable for the right one. £50.

arkway in Camden Town has, so I'm informed by the boss of one of them, 11 architectural practices. Their effect on *Keto* has been minimal — and I mean minimal, not minimalist. Like *Yoisho* the appearance is utilitarian. Unlike *Yoisho* its kitchen belongs to that of everyday Tokyo-on-Thames but at least it keeps its prices down and is low on *kimonos*. The menu is bog-standard and the service is OK. Perhaps the staff should have explained why the vegetable tempura was soggy. Maybe they should have known precisely why the chicken *teriyaki* was served with two thick fish-shop chips and a Chinese take-away sauce. Maybe they should be discouraged from telling punters how to eat. If you have the nous to send these guys on their way, the cooking is all right. Indeed the deep-fried pork and onion is special. £58.

Sakura is situated among a tiny cluster of Japanese shops in the West End. The restaurant is approached along a long and cheerless corridor. This gives on to a cubic and cheerless space of banquettes and tables. It is not afflicted by Japan: Land of Design. Tempura, *teriyaki*, sashimi — they are all prepared and served with a joyless efficiency.

There is nothing novel, nothing odd about the menu — but the place is thoroughly competent. A sound introduction to Japanese cooking. £35.

YOISHO

38 Goudge Street, London W1 (01-323 0477)

Dinner Mon to Sat. £20. No cards.

KOTO

75 Parkway, London NW1 (01-482 2036)

Lunch and dinner Mon to Sat. £58. Most cards.

SAKURA

9 Hanover Street, London W1 (01-629 2961)

Lunch every day, dinner Mon to Sat. £35. Most cards.

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

CENTRAL EUROPEAN

Czech Club
74 West End Lane, London NW6 (01-328 0131)

Looks like a bad-temper which has soon turned into a restaurant. Hefty winter food well-prepared and served at knock-down prices: boiled beef with dumplings, roast duck with dumplings, dumplings with apricot. Good Czech beer and fruit spirits. £25.

Zamozni
250 Fleet Road, London NW3 (01-724 4792)

Downstairs is a wine bar with a purr wine list and milder-European cooking. Upstairs is a noisy restaurant that offers some very decent Polish cooking, such as a *pancake* of apple with smoked salmon, outstanding *lekas*, *coleslaw*, and lightly cured sausage. £25.

Daquise
20 Thurloe Street, London SW7 (01-338 6117)

Legendary Polish tea-room and restaurant that has been a home from home for generations of émigrés. Homely cooking at astonishingly low prices: *borstcht*, *chodnik*, *piroski*, stuffed cabbage, herring with sour cream, *riso* *saute*. Drink lemon tea or *Tatra* beer. £18.

Lowiczanka
239-246 King Street, London, W6 (01-741 3225)

The restaurant of the Polish Social and Cultural Centre. A bit like an anonymous 1960s hotel in Lodz. The clientele is largely composed of Polish families. They are served by matronly ladies in "authentic" costume. The food is copious — *tripe*, stuffed cabbage, cured sausage, potato *pancakes*, sweet *pancakes*. There are numerous flavoured vodkas to choose from and *Tatra* beer. £22.

STEAK AND CHIPS

Café Pollican
45 St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-378 6303/0259)

Large pseudo-French "brasserie" whose efforts at sophisticated dishes are usually woeful, but whose steak and chips, *Touques* sausages and the like are sound enough. £40.

Café des Fleurs
280 West End Lane, London NW6 (01-435 5292)

High class steak and chip joint. The chips are offered in two widths and are very good indeed, as is the meat. The more ambitious daily specials are less appealing. Friendly service, inexpensive wines, flowery as its name suggests. £25.

Grill St Quentin
Yeoman's Row, Brompton Road, London SW3 (01-581 8377)

One of the largest restaurants in London and one of the best, on Yeoman's Row in Paris, La Coupole. However it is not a brasserie, but a steak and chips outfit which also serves stand-alone luxury items such as *foie gras* *terrine*. Within its too narrow limits it's perfectly acceptable, but it seems to be an opportunity missed. The clientele is relentlessly middle class. The service is relentlessly inept. £72.

SUSSEX

Lychgates
56 Church Street, Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex (0424 212193)

Small and homely restaurant in part of a Victorian house in a pretty street of weather-boarded buildings. Accomplished and well-judged cooking, amiable service. The menu is very understated — when it says *lamb casserole* you get just that, but done with a sureness of touch that is remarkable. Impressive starters, delicious *garnishes*. There's nothing very notable to drink. The prices are most reasonable. £35-£40.

La Vieille Auberge
27 High Street, Battle, East Sussex (0424 651771)

The cooking is almost, but not quite, lost by its own over-ambition. Lamb with a tart of lamb's kidney and leeks, *revivole* of crab — both suggest a desire to exceed the kitchen's capabilities. £25.

Garden Restaurant
Gatwick Hilton, Gatwick Airport, West Sussex (0293 518000)

Aspirational. A Hilton hotel in the middle of an airport with a serious restaurant. The cooking is highly accomplished — fresh fish *noodles* with sweetbreads, chicken and beef, *marvelously* pungent Burgundian cheeses, interesting *viols* including a drinkable *Picnic* *Noir d'Alsace*. Competent and friendly service. Hardly surprisingly, it is frequented by locals as well as travellers. £70.

Alexander House
Fen Place, Turner's Hill, West Sussex (0342 714914)

Rather magnificently appointed "country house" hotel with good paintings and fine *garnishes*. Some of the cooking is commonplace luxury; some of it is inventive and in an idiom rarely found in such establishments: *omelets* with *garnishes*, *delicious* *viols* in *fruits*. Indifferent wine. £120.

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CAFE SOCIETY

Re-painting the pillars

MARTINE FRANK/MAGNUM

La Coupole, the artists' favourite watering hole in the Twenties, has a New Look — or has it?

People go to La Coupole in Paris because it is their habit to do so, because it contrives to be all things to all men and women (and children), because it is a comfortable club of which you don't have to be a member, because it's, well, there, and open almost every hour of every day of the year.

You can stroll through its vast salon any time, just to see if there's anyone around who you know. If there isn't, you can sit on the terrace with a paper and a *Ricard* or a *demipression* and wait for someone to show. You can hide in the American Bar and, sipping a Twenties cocktail, brood about the meaning of it all. You can order, from the sea-smelling *banc d'huîtres* at the other end of the terrace, a consoling dish of oysters. Or you can dine *en tête à tête* and be sure that your sweet nothings, which in some "intimate" joint would be as private as a flight call at Heathrow, will go unheeded. And if that works out, you can go below deck and dance, if not till dawn, at least into the small hours.

Like all great works of man, the Coupole has achieved a kind of universality. But before there was the Coupole there was Montparnasse, a *quartier* which was, as someone remarked, *sans histoire, sans passé ni souvenirs*. To the artists of the Twenties, disillusioned with a Montmartre that had become — partly because of their presence — popular, sophisticated, and spoilt, Montparnasse, bourgeois, provincial, was a blank page, a bare canvas.

So the likes of Derain, Van Dongen, Modigliani and Picasso moved in. Word spread abroad of this place where a fellow could live and paint as he pleased, and Chagall, Kistling and Zadkine disembarked at the Gare Montparnasse. Their presence, and a favourable exchange rate, lured Hemingway, Dos Pass-

os, Faulkner, e. e. cummings. On the evening of December 20, 1927, Messrs Fraux and Lafont invited a bunch of the locals — among them Foujita, Vlaminck, Cocteau, Blaise Cendrars, Derain, Kiki the model and Man Ray, that week's lover, Pascin, Aragon — to the inauguration of their new venture, La Coupole, conveniently situated just down the Boulevard Montparnasse from the Métro Vavin. (Quite a few of the then little-known freeloaders were only too happy to accept commissions from their hosts to paint canvases to the size of the 32 pillars of the establishment: you can see them there today, an extraordinary evocation — from cubism to *l'art nègre* — of an extraordinary epoch.)

At the heart of *les années folles*, the Coupole seemed to be a folly. Here in one building was a vast café with terrace, an American Bar (the latest chic), *un dancing*, a great salon with its multitude of pillars, a swank restaurant — La Pergola — open to the sky, and on top of that a *terrain*, thoughtfully provided for *les amateurs de boules*. And the whole kit and caboodle was open day and night, winter and summer.

The place was immediately taken to heart by the artists and writers, who themselves became yet another attraction for the large, anonymous crowd that constantly milled there: a performance daily renewed.

To a newcomer, back in the Fifties, it seemed as if the place must always have been like this, would always be so. The clientele had changed (some of them) in name if not in kind. I rubbed elbows in those days with the likes of Max Ernst, Calder, Chagall, Man Ray, Cartier-Bresson, the stick-like Giacometti, the stocky César.

But, not long ago, 60 years after creating the Coupole, René Lafont (still, in his nineties, to be seen at night patrolling his vast domain) sold it, just like that, to one Jean-Paul Bucher, boss of the Groupe Flo, a chain of highly successful Thirties-pastiche brasseries. The new owner promptly announced that he would close the place indefinitely in order, he said, to restore it to its former glory; but also, it emerged, to pile a few floors on top of it and make a heap of money.

Now you can see (and taste) the result. Shock! What is this? The old Coupole gone — like everything else — green? Those famous 32 pillars, once a resplendent Bordeaux colour, now gleam in a shade somewhere between jade and emerald, shot through, what's more, with shards of gold. But wait. This, they claim, the way the

Coupole looked on that historic night in 1927. That was what they found when they cleaned off the *nouveau bordel*.

The 32 original canvases are there, cleaned of the patina bestowed by the smoke from several million Gauloises.

The tables retain their maze-like formation — though they are covered now in snowy cloth instead of raffish paper.

In the bar, once an enclave apart, you can order a White Lady, a Blue Angel or a Black Russian. It is now open to the great salon, at the other end of which the *banc d'huîtres* has been redecorated in Thirties style to conform, and enlarged to become the biggest in Paris.

The rest of the food in the old Coupole was never anything to send a postcard home about, and the new menu suggests that the cuisine, and the prices, have gone up-market. Some of the traditional Coupole dishes have been retained: what the place has always fondly regarded as a curry, with its range of chutneys, the cassoulet, the steak *à la tartare*, the *saucisson* Grand Marnier, the Omelette Norvégienne (Baked Alaska) and Hot Fudge, a winning confection of vanilla ice-cream with hot chocolate sauce and grilled almonds.

Charles Hennessy



Dream kingdom: high sophistication in the illustration of a simple tale

The frog who would be king

Making picture books out of the more numinous folk tales is a touchy business. How to illustrate those enigmatic transitions, those implausible events? Literal representation cannot cope over the full length of a picture book; fantasy pictures usually kill the story.

Binette Schroeder and Naomi Lewis's *Frog Prince* shows that there is a way. Both illustrator and translator need to be named here, because, although the pictures were originally done for the German text from Grimm, Miss Lewis has reshaped the telling so that it gains points for the English reader. None of the strange narrative has been sacrificed, but the story is allowed to grow naturally with the turning pages — not least at those awkward moments when verse takes over, as when the frog comes knocking at the castle door, or when the iron bands fall from Faithful Henry's bosom.

This admirable text shows how sensitive Naomi Lewis is to the needs of Binette Schroeder's illustrations. For from the cover

FOR CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

THE FROG PRINCE, OR IRON HENRY

By Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm
Translated by Naomi Lewis
Illustrated by Binette Schroeder
North-South Books, £7.50

inwards we are in Märchen-land — pinnacled castles and walled terraces subsisting ethereally in a dream kingdom. At the same time, though, the mundane details of frogs and carriages and the amazing cinematic transformation of frog to prince as he is hurled against the wall, bring a conviction of reality. Binette Schroeder seems to have conceived this landscape and this train of pictures in a single vision, and despite the high sophistication of her art — subtly air-brushed back-cloths, near-surrealist staging — her pictures have the simple spontaneity of the tale itself.



Tally ho: typical salute to hunting and the West Country, by John Leech

Of 'osses and men

Jeffrey Abbott

ANALYSIS OF THE HUNTING FIELD

By R. S. Satees
R. S. Satees Society, Tacker's Cottage, Netherbury, Frome, Somerset, £16.95

Powell). Aphorism: "Men talk of their thousands from whom it is easier to extract an eye tooth than a sovereign." Anecdote: The Crane who hunts the Iron Duke's hounds during the Peninsular War (warfare preclude 'unting? Never) one day follows them almost into the enemy camp; the huntsman with the cork leg who becomes so drunk that he cannot remember where he left his leg the night before. The phraseology: "Old 'ard, you 'airdresser on the chestnut 'oss." "Hairdresser, Sir? I am an officer in the 91st Regiment." "Then, you hoffer in the 91st Regiment wot looks like a 'air-dresser, 'old 'ard." Feasting: the heroic ingestion of Surtees's men puts to shame our feeble capacities — "the prime home-fed beef, the dark-gravied mutton, the clean-fod pork, the plump white chicken, the beautiful ham, the mealy potato, the scarlet beet." The ability to hit a character with a name and a phrase or two: Sir Rasper Smashgate, "who rides 14 stone with the nerve of a Roman gladiator." (Fear not, gentle reader: Henrietta nails him: "He said as he changed from his hack to his hunter, 'By Jove, why shouldn't I marry her?'")

Reach me my Handley Cross again, My run, where never danger lurks, is With Jorrocks and his deathless train — Pigg, Binjamin and Artaxerxes. (Rudyard Kipling, entering into the spirit of things.)

Deathless indeed, and rich is Surtees's world, always fresh: "That opaque distance becomes transparent clear. An England forever." This mightily handsome book has its place in that world. So tally-ho, Surtermite all! For'ard away on our tenth run. West Country, we salute you.

Educating Rita and the rest

Victoria

Glendinning on an unswervingly loyal

biography of

Emily Davies,

founder of Girton,

who could have

done with such

vigorous support

in her lifetime

EMILY DAVIES AND THE LIBERATION OF WOMEN

By Daphne Bennett
Andre Deutsch, £15.95

Who was Emily Davies? Daphne Bennett, in her introduction to this fine and fiercely partisan biography, finds it shameful that Emily is not more famous. Her achievements were overshadowed by the noisier and more newsworthy activities of the militant suffragettes of the next generation, whose methods appalled the respectable Emily Davies — though she campaigned, discreetly, for the franchise, and cast her first and last vote (Tory) in 1918. She died in 1921. Although "no feminist in the debased modern sense of the word", writes Daphne Bennett (begging a question or two), she was nevertheless, in her fight for women's education, "the greatest feminist of them all".

In her enthusiasm for establishing Emily in the pantheon, her biographer overstates the extent to which she is forgotten. The name of Emily Davies appears in all reputable histories of the women's movement; she is necessarily a key figure in any account of women's education; and there are good essays on her, notably Margaret Forster's in *Significant Sisterhood* (1984). If more detail was not available until now about the life of the woman who founded Girton in 1869, it may be because her private life was uneventful, and because arduous years of lobbying, fund-raising, public speaking, planning and committee-work tend — unfairly — to be unexciting in retrospect.

Emily was born in 1830, the daughter of a hypochondriacal clergyman, who wrote a book entitled *Splendid Sins* about the dreadful fate awaiting the rich in the world to come. Emily seemed doomed to the dim life of a daughter at home. She was described by a friend as "small and plain, her manner conventional, her face unrevealing between smooth bands of mouse-coloured hair".

The friend was Elizabeth Garrett. Emily Davies was lucky enough to meet, by chance, a group of women who were not afraid to voice the revolutionary thoughts that she had kept to herself. Emily cut her teeth in public life by supporting Elizabeth Garrett in her struggle to become the first woman to qualify as a doctor in England. Emily Davies soon found her own voice. It was clear and caustic. Not everyone liked it, even when they agreed with her views. The movement for the higher education of women took root in the 1860s. The idea was greeted in most circles with mindless hilarity or pious, pompous distaste. Much of the cant

was very like that used today to oppose the ordination of women, and had its roots in masculine fear.

Emily's first college was a discreet distance away from Cambridge, in Hitchin. Public opinion, and most Cambridge dons, were so vociferously against her that for a terrible moment it seemed there would be no students. In the event, she opened with five hopeful young women. One thing she stood out for was that her girls must take the same examinations as the undergraduates; to accept separate examinations, and lower standards, would ruin the whole scheme. She was jealous and scornful of mild Miss Clough, who first established Newnham as a hostel for the popular "ladies' lectures", and who lured away some of Emily's own supporters among the dons by her lesser demands.

Determined to get her girls into Cambridge geographically as well as academically, Emily raised money to buy a windswept site at Girton, three miles outside. Her architect was Alfred Waterhouse; and she was adamant that every student should have her own bedroom and sitting-room. This was an extravagant use of space, but she stuck to her guns. In 1873, they moved in; the house was unfinished, freezing cold, ill-equipped. The food was frightful, the future gardens a wasteland. Oxford, London, and the provincial colleges were all quicker to give

full university membership to women than was Cambridge. It's impossible to say whether women would have taken more or less time to become accepted there without Emily's high-profile campaigning. It could hardly have taken longer. For years, the women students sat for the Tripos as a concession, not as of right. The last fight was for them to be given degrees. From 1882 women students were issued with certificates, stating the class they had obtained in the Tripos. As Emily always feared, a lesser privilege only blocked the way to a greater one. Incredibly, it was 1947 before Cambridge gave degrees to women.

Emily was creating something tremendous at Girton, but there is an inevitable subject of pettiness and strife — passions, fits, and misunderstandings between Emily and her inexperienced staff, between Emily and her advisers and supporters, between Emily and the opposition. Few modern biographers have been so unquestioningly loyal to every action and motive of her subject as is Daphne Bennett. Emily was a woman of iron will and determination, but she was not easy to work with, and she was not always right. No one is. But Daphne Bennett is on her side, without reservation. Emily could have done with such a champion in her lifetime.

She had one, but she lost him. Emily's very first success had been to get girls admitted to the Local Examinations (the precursor of the school certificate). The secretary to the London board was a charming and clever man called Henry Tomkinson, who was also managing director of Sun Insurance. He became Emily's chief ally and supporter in the Girton enterprise. She consulted him on everything, and his practical experience of administration was invaluable. Daphne Bennett, scouring Emily's papers, has found in her relations with Tomkinson the only evidence of a romance in her life.

It was an abortive romance, and the evidence is negative. The friendship, which became ever closer, suddenly ceased in 1875 — or at least, after that date there is no surviving correspondence or documented contact. Bennett thinks that Tomkinson proposed marriage, and was turned down. A more painful interpretation, which she does not consider, is that it was the other way round. Emily was 45, and had just retired from being Mistress of Girton. Maybe it was she who suggested marriage to her old friend, and maybe he declined. No one will ever know.

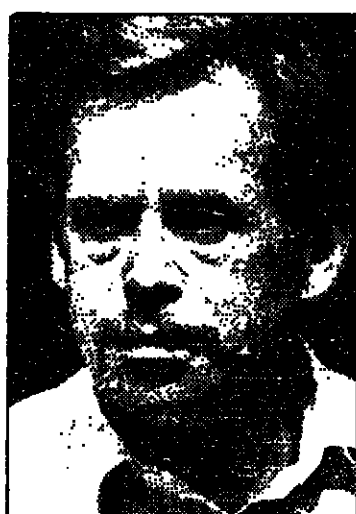


كلنا من الأصل

'Much of the cant was like that to oppose the ordination of women and had its roots in masculine fear'

Old truths will out

Mark Almond



VACLAV HAVEL
LIVING IN TRUTH
Edited by Jan Valdislav
Faber, £4.99

MY FIRST LOVE
By Ivan Klima
Translated by Ewald Osers
Penguin, £4.99

(and the 16 accompanying "texts for Havel" by other dissidents and foreign admirers). Alongside the theme of unwavering personal integrity as the peaceful weapon of the nonconformist opponent of totalitarianism there is a second,

less uplifting theme: the corrosion of morality and personal identity through living under a regime where no one, from the general secretary downwards, believes the brilliant future will ever dawn, and where everyone has a fiddle for which they will betray everyone else. Corruption, dishonesty, time-serving and conformity form the backdrop to Havel's own honesty and truthfulness. Did the social vices fostered by Communism disappear overnight two months ago?

Communism did not just corrupt those living under it. Havel's essays come from the later 1970s and early 1980s, the golden age of the "peace movement". A nonconformist by nature, Havel's comments on the West will not please rigid conservatives, but it is difficult to suppress one's own fury — even though he himself writes with patience — when one reads about the western progressives who explained to Czech dissidents that the Gulag Archipelago was "a tax paid for the ideals of socialism" — like all the best taxes, needless to say, paid by others. Once *glasnost* set in in the Soviet Union and it was no longer easy to live the lie that Brezhnev was preferable to Reagan, and therefore that Havel and friends should devote their energies to defending civil liberties in Thatcher's Britain rather than in Prague, the peace movement left the dissidents to get on with their struggle unhindered. Now, as they have succeeded, their western "friends" will no doubt rush forward to persuade them to restore the old order.

Klima's novels and the poignant short stories issued by Penguin are a marvellous antidote to most political literature in modern Britain, as well as a model of how to demolish a regime with a flick of the pen but without mud-slinging, indeed with scarcely a hint of its existence. Instead of a state-subsidized litany of hate against Thatcher's Britain, Klima writes about the eternally interesting themes of love, briefly requited, disappointed, and both. Klima conveys the tragedy of the banal. Perhaps.

In this tale of love among the sociologists there lurks a more serious sin than lust, adultery or greed. It is the murder of the English language. "He flicked the inner surfaces of her thighs lightly with the legato touch of a pianist removing a Chopin nocturne from the old ivory keys..." The awesome combination of inept imagery and cliché in this sentence is not especially inspired, but typical. Later "her throat felt tight, her heart flapped away like an asthmatic bird..."

At moments I wondered if the whole book was a joke. Startlingly ineffectual images and turns of phrase appear, not singly but in battalions, on every page. "The little girl munched and sang simultaneously..." Mark admired the way her hips moved down the garden... her breasts, which trembled with the lungs of the ocean and

the star-filled sky". But it is no joke. As is usually the case, imprecision of thought is at the root of the badness of the writing.

"She'd been married to him for 12 years and lying beside him most of that time." Ann Oakley informs us of her heroine, Charity, on page one. It comes as no surprise to learn later that she had had no time to do more than "note" the

Strangled by string of words

Francis Hill

THE MERRYMAN
By Ann Oakley
Faber, £4.95

The Merryman is a novel about a woman who is married to a man who is a writer. The woman is a writer too, and the two of them are married to each other. The woman is a writer who is married to a man who is a writer. The woman is a writer who is married to a man who is a writer.

Islands in a pattern

The most obvious legacy of the late Mary McCarthy's "Catholic girlhood" in a fundamentally Puritan country was her lasting struggle with the problem of free will. By the time she was 30, in 1942, and publishing her first novel, *The Company She Keeps*, she was learning with her fellow American intellectuals to give the question a Freudian or a Marxist cast. McCarthy, though, was more interested in satire than in therapy or revolution. She believed that the root of all comedy was an inability to learn either "from experience or instruction", a basic, wrong-headed stubbornness, lovably "incorrigible". Her characters in the first novel, as in *The Group* later, do not seem to manage to grow up other than ritually or routinely, or to acquire the "rounded" outline of fictional maturity.

It is easy to mistake *The Company She Keeps* for a collection of discontinuous stories, and to miss its underlying structure. Margaret Sargent, its heroine, is not even identified by name in the delightful

THE COMPANY SHE
By Mary McCarthy
Widdowson, £4.95
THE WOMAN WHO
By Frances Hill
Faber, £4.95
TRESSES
By Paul Hogg
Penguin, £4.95

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RECORDS

Lone traveller in the wilderness



Sense of proportion: Tennstedt conducts the London Philharmonic

CLASSICAL UPDATE

Wagner: Tristan und Isolde Vickers, Nilsson/Böhm. Rodolphe/Harmonia Mundi (RPC 32553.55) (three CDs) 1973 recording from the Orange amphitheatre, dominated by Vickers' expressive power and by the immensity and immediacy of Nilsson, working together with Böhm against the wind and the audience.

Gibbons: Cries and Fancies Fretwork (Virgin VC 7 90849 2) The tedious *Cries of London* are here, but vastly outweighed by fantasias which the violas of Fretwork weigh out with gravity, a rich, wheezing, ensemble sound, and a big, physical relish of the faster music.

Holst: The Planets, Ballet from *The Perfect Fool* RPO/Mackerras (Virgin VC 7 90855 2)

The old warhorse rears up with its heraldic bold and colour; this is a vigorously frank and straightforward performance, outdoing many of the glossier, striving names.

Wagner: Das Rheingold, Sommers, Beethoven RSO/Haitink (EMI CDS 7 49853 2) (two CDs)

Fittingly marvellous. James Morris's Wotan is outstandingly authoritative, natural and beautiful; Theo Adam puts all into a lusty Alberich; and the excellent Donner, Fasolt and Fafner make this a *Rheingold* rich in the depths. Haitink is spacious, and sometimes suddenly engaged.

The year starts with Brahms's and Goethe's journey into the Harz mountains. This new recording of the *Alto Rhapsody* is a fitting celebration, too, of Claudio Abbado's Berlin appointment: his orchestral accompaniment, deep, crisp and even of texture, is just the companion for Marjana Lipovsek's vision of the lone traveller. Her true, deep-grained alto can also gleam in its higher register as Brahms depicts the wilderness which threatens to absorb him.

The Second Symphony reaches out equally warmly to the listener. Strong on legato and minutely sensitive to the texture of each moment, it grows, true to the symphony itself, very much from the base and back to it again. Abbado uses his orchestra's firm, supple foundation as an integrating and propulsive source of energy. His tempi, sympathetically conservative, ensure that Brahms's livelier rhythms are never merely barked out, and that there is time enough to drink in the full colour of the vertical harmony without any loss in horizontal impetus.

Muti's Brahms No 2 evolves less by instinct, more by lucid, self-aware direction. Abbado, if you like, is the loving potter, tenderly moulding his creation; Muti more the clear-sighted stage manager. The sound is different, too: Muti's Philadelphia players draw the ear higher to the receding of the wind, and phrasing becomes less a function of breath and more a means towards textual shaping.

The Finale has the edge of speed and excitement over Abbado's brightly articulated, it functions more successfully as release and is as natural a lead-in to the *Academic Festival Overture* as

CLASSICAL
Hilary Finch

Brahms: Symphony No 2/Alto Rhapsody Berlin Phil/Abbado/Lipovsek (DG 427 643-2)

Brahms: Symphony No 2/Academic Festival Overture Philadelphia Or/Muti (Philips 422 334-2)

Mahler: Symphony No 5 LPO/Tennstedt (EMI 7 49888 2)

Bruckner: Symphony No 5/Te Deum Vienna Phil/Haitink (Philips 422 342-2)

Mahler: Symphony No 6/Kindertotenlieder Vienna Phil/Bernstein/Hampson (DG 427 687-2)

Dvořák: Symphony No 9/Smetana's Vltava Oslo Phil/Jansons (EMI 7 49860 2)

Nielsen: Symphonies Nos 1 & 6 San Francisco Symphony/Blomstedt (Decca 425 607-2)

Abbado's was a follow-on from the *Alto Rhapsody*.

Tennstedt's Mahler and Haitink's Bruckner need fear no such immediate comparative evaluations: each stands alone and will, I suspect, continue to do so. The Tennstedt is a live recording of the highly charged concert with the London Philharmonic in December 1988; yet it is remarkable for its sobriety, its fine balance and sense of proportion, and the all-pervasive energy of what Mahler himself saw as a new beginning.

It is the lightness and sharpness of movement, the shadow of the dance hovering behind the funeral march, which sustains the tension and nicely nervous ambiguity of the first two movements. The Scherzo, too, is buoyant, its every episode paced with super-sensitive antennae, its woodwind soloists pointing often neglected details of Mahler's combining and fragmenting of his themes. Few

recordings of the Adagietto are so meticulously "heard": the minutiae of Mahler's melodic and harmonic imaginings vibrate in slow, sustained playing.

Haitink's 1972 Bruckner No 5 with the Concertgebouw was one of the most lucid accounts of its time: 16 years on it would still be difficult to find a more consistently satisfying interpreter. The change, of course, is the body of players: their being Austrian does make a difference. A characteristically instinctive response to the inner pulse of the dances in the Scherzo seems to inspire Haitink to greater expressiveness in the outer movements. He still, though, is sensitive to their comparative leanness, the alternatively diffident and febrile quality of their development.

It is hard to believe Bernstein is directing the same orchestra in his Mahler No 6. DG's intensely close acoustic emphasizes a reading which tends to the strident, so vehement is its rhythmic energy, so sharp-edged its brass playing. But, equally typically, there is that irresistible sense of instinct with which the arch of phrase opens out, the alacrity with which the VPO's string soloists leap to its crest, and the wonder of their woodwind's parade of leering figures in the Scherzo.

Despite the linguistic ease and idiomatic well-being of Thomas Hampson's singing, this is a disappointing *Kindertotenlieder* and it is Bernstein's fault. Too often the inflections of Mahler's word setting become weighed down by superfluous rubato. All too eager to equate every *espressivo* with *ritenuto*, Bernstein paces the songs flatly, thereby drawing attention to the weaker depths of Hampson's baritone.

To turn to the Oslo Philharmonic's properly ventilated



Vehemently energetic: Bernstein's interpretation of Mahler's No 6

Dvořák with Mariss Jansons is something of a relief. This is spruce, sprightly playing, with the end of one phrase sparking into the beginning of the next, and a bright, keen string sound which comes into its own in the bold outlines of the final allegro. By contrast, the Oslo Phil's oars angling sets the slow movement apart: the long white nights of both Jansons's musical homelands never seem far away.

It is the San Francisco players who are proving to be the champions of at least one branch of Scandinavian music at present. Herbert Blomstedt reaches the centre point of his fine Nielsen series with a recording of the first and last symphonies (Nos 2 and 3 remain) to be released later this year. Each symphony is closely

understood and re-created with all the care and enthusiasm of new discovery. Blomstedt has the measure of the reticence and human scale of the First: if anything, he plays down the influence of Brahms and plays up the warm textures and fresh harmonic rhythms of the village music-making at the composer's roots.

His string players are alert to the querulous energy and lean writing which honours Nielsen's melodies clear of the sentimental: his woodwind soloists show their mettle in the sidling, sour-sweet solos and the cadential figures which so often slip just out of grasp. In the chamber-musical Sixth, Blomstedt's precision of ear and vividness of imagination locate the pivot of ambiguity in this complex last work.

John Le Carré may not be the best reader in the world, but at least he knows *The Russia House*, a superior political thriller, better than anybody. And so he should. He wrote it. And there is always something special about hearing a book coming straight from the horse's mouth and knowing that, if anything has been cut, at least it has been done with the blessing of the true and only begotten. This is exactly the same reading that, thanks to its sustained note of menace, caused me broken sleep when BBC radio broadcast it in its *A Book at Bedtime* slot last year.

Summer's Lease is a good example of what is becoming a trend in the cassette market. It takes a performer from a TV drama production — in this case, Susan Fleetwood — and then gives her the chance to read not only her own role again, but everybody else's. The surprising result is that John Mortimer's comedy mystery about holidaying Brits in Tuscany, holds together far better on tape

Thrills of the chase

SPOKEN WORD

Peter Davalle

The Russia House (EMI/Listen for Pleasure (LP 77430))

Summer's Lease (The Radio Collection ZBBC1068)

A Christmas Carol read by Daniel Massey (Argo 1143/44)

A Christmas Carol with Ralph Richardson (Collins Caedmon CDL 51136)

Mary Poppins (Collins Caedmon CDL 51246)

than it did on the small screen, though not even Miss Fleetwood can replicate John Gielgud's

outrageous roudé, Haverford Downs.

While there's a last drop of Christmas spirit left in you, make a note of these two versions of Dickens's great Christmas story. The Daniel Massey three-hour reading is the whole text, and nothing but. I have never heard it better done. Massey climbs into so many skins that when he scrambles out of them to get into his principal garb as narrator, you wonder whether this really can be the same man doing it all. Considerably shorter (56 min), but nothing vital missing, is the reissued 1960 version, with Paul Scofield too uninvolved as narrator and Ralph Richardson too nice as Scrooge.

Another useful early addition to your Christmas 1990 shopping list is the 54-minute reading — by Maggie Smith, Robert Stephens and strong cast — of four Mary Poppins tales. Forget the Disney version. This is the magical nanny as P. L. Travers fashioned her for the printed page.

Thanks to Buck Clayton

DAVID REDFERN

JAZZ
Clive Davis

The Alden/Barrett Quintet The ABC Salutes Buck Clayton (Concord CCD 4395)

George Coleman: At Yoshi's (Theresa TR126)

On the mainstream circuit at least, the quintet of guitarist Howard Alden and trombonist Dan Barrett has been winning rave reviews over the past five years. Last year's appearances at the Edinburgh Festival helped consolidate their following.

Alden has spoken before of his admiration for the discreet small-group sound of the John Kirby Sextet. If the ABC has sometimes slipped into blandness instead, the reason lies partly in the muted, piano-less instrumentation, the two leaders supported by Chuck Wilson (alto saxophone/clarinet), Frank Tate (bass) and Jackie Williams (drums).

The new album shows the group continuing to develop, thanks in no small part to Buck Clayton, the great Basie trumpeter and arranger. Forced to retire from playing due to illness, Clayton has been concentrating on writing in recent years. He began concocting arrangements for the ABC after hearing the group at Eddie Condon's in New York.

Some of the pieces — among them "Claytonia" — will be familiar to Clayton's admirers. Most of the newer items maintain that standard. The outstanding composition is a haunting ballad "Winter Light", composed with Wilson in mind and using intertwining harmonies.

As an exercise in nostalgia, Alden adds his own arrangements of "Way Down Yonder in New Orleans" and "Dickie's Dream", two tunes from Clayton's Kansas



George Coleman: his reputation rests more on his live performances

City small-group sessions. It could still be argued that the trombone-guitar partnership fails to extract the maximum mileage from the music. But as tributes go, this one rarely misses the mark.

George Coleman is one of those saxophonists whose reputation as a leader rests more on his live performances than his infrequent recordings. His latest release faithfully documents his abrasive post-bop approach, while allowing listeners to compare the sound of his quartet in concert as well as in the more restrained environment of a studio. Two of the five LP pieces were taped in a San Francisco studio, the rest taken from an engagement in Oakland.

Whatever else, Coleman is a tireless performer, his stamina often outlasting his audience's. When the formula pays off, the result can be breathtaking, the rest

of the time it is a question of waiting patiently until he arrives at the turnaround. At Yoshi's finds him in capable company, with a rhythm section consisting of pianist Harold Mabern, the drummer Alvin Queen, and the bass-player Ray Drummond.

The two studio pieces — "Laid Gobbins Blues" and "IO" bring the best out of the players, encouraging them to cut down on the number of choruses. Performing live, the quartet automatically stretches out, not always to any real purpose. "They Say It's Wonderful" begins with a nod in the direction of John Coltrane's 1963 duet with baritone singer Johnny Hartman, but then wanders around the changes for another 12 minutes. Only hardcore Coleman fans will want to stay with him to the end of the journey.

ROCK UPDATE

Lisa Stansfield Affection (Arista 260 379)

Rochdale's premier, if not only, electro-soul diva emerged from the same post-house stable that produced Yaz, and enjoyed the surprise No 1 of 1989 with "All Around the World". Her debut album is a similarly poised and seductive affair.

De La Soul 3 Feet High and Rising (Big Life/Tommy Boy DLSLP 1)

"The Magic Number" is the fourth hit single to come from this extraordinarily popular and influential debut. With its zany mixture of gentle whimsy, good vibes and lethal dance grooves, this album has almost single-handedly hauled rap out of the dark ages.

The Dan Reed Network Slam (Mercury 838 868-2)

Imaginative neo-noir sensibility and a post-punk mutation of psychedelia eventually known as Gothic rock.

Indeed, its 1984 album, *The Top*, was one of the staging posts in the establishment of the genre. A string of upbeat, neo-vaudevilian hit singles ("Why Can't I Be You", "The Love Cats", *et al*) has balanced the increasingly despondent mantras which typify the ever doomier and lengthier albums, the most consistently listenable of which remains 1987's double set, *Kiss me, Kiss me, Kiss me*.

UB40 Labour of Love II (Virgin DEP 14)

Six years after the landmark *Labour of Love*, comes a second batch of country ethos and finely wrought cover versions.

HOUSE NUMBER by Clive Doig

My friend Matthew Mathinker moved house the other day to Multiplicand Avenue. "What number do you live at?" I

"Well, if I tell you that my house number is exactly divisible by the sum product of its digits, and the product is exactly divisible by the sum of its digits by the same divisor, you should know where I live."

He then rushed off. I worked it out quite quickly and went round to Multiplicand Avenue.

Unfortunately, when I arrived at the house, Mrs Bright answered the door and when I explained the problem she said: "Wrong house, wrong divisor, my dear. Mr. Mathinker's number has three digits in it."

What was the number of Matthew's house?

Answers next week.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Eventful: Burling were declared the winners. Burling, Clankers and Digby each came 1st or 1st equal in three events.

Burling came 2nd and 2nd equal in two events. Four, three, two, one points were awarded respectively for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th (but seven, five, three, one works equally well). The teams scored as follows in the seven events:

Ablon: 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4 (total 17½)

Burling: 3, 3, 2, 1, 4, 1, 3 (17½)

Clankers: 3, 1, 2, 4, 1, 3, 3, 2 (17½)

Digby: 3, 3, 4, 2, 1, 1, 2, 1 (17½)

Linkword: The anagram spell CHIMPANZEE. The Linkwords were APACE, PECAN, PANIC, CHAIN, CHAIR, MARCH, CREAM, CRAZE, FARCE, AFTER, GRAFT.

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 12 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a scrupulously researched and patently biased guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in

this series, an act must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time.

The entries are designed to be

pasted on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

THE CURE

It would have taken a supremely athletic leap of the imagination to spot a stadium-rock colossus in the making when a wan trio called the Cure, led by singer/guitarist Robert Smith, issued "Killing an Arab" in 1978. This debut single, with its comically naïf dustbin-id cymbal splashes, launched the group as contenders on the art-rock wing of the new wave. But while subsequently maintaining his carefully cultivated air of fagged-out eccentricity, Smith has proved a shrewd judge of popular mood, and by the mid-Eighties the expanded group had become a prime purveyor of the post-punk mutation of psychedelia eventually known as Gothic rock.

Indeed, its 1984 album, *The Top*, was one of the staging posts in the establishment of the genre. A string of upbeat, neo-vaudevilian hit singles ("Why Can't I Be You", "The Love Cats", *et al*) has balanced the increasingly despondent mantras which typify the ever doomier and lengthier albums, the most consistently listenable of which remains 1987's double set, *Kiss me, Kiss me, Kiss me*.

DEEP PURPLE

In its heyday, Deep Purple attempted simultaneously to fulfil rock's aspirations as a "serious" art form — witness Jon Lord's preposterous Concerto for Group and Orchestra performed with the Royal Philharmonic at the Albert Hall in 1969 — while shamelessly responding to the basest of musical drives, most memorably with the turbo-powered, proto-metal of *Deep Purple in Rock* (1970), described by the *Penguin Encyclopedia of Popular Music* as "arguably (the) most influential UK hard rock album ever". But, whether donning their pseudo-classical or headbanging hats, Purple's watchword has remained "swass all areas".

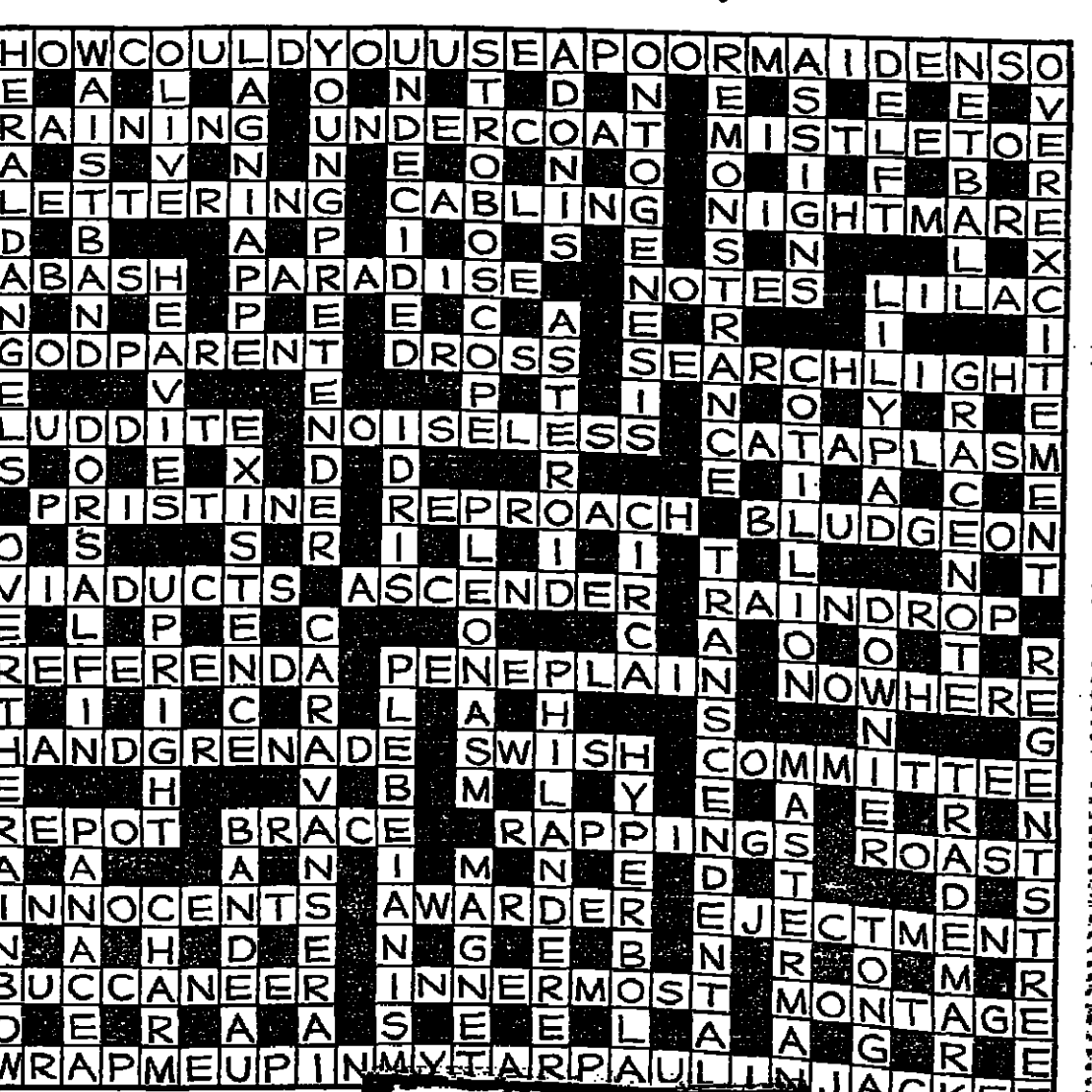
Gillan's blood-curdling shriek, Lord's graphic organ-bashing routine and Fitchie Blackmore's guitar histrionics proved a staggeringly successful formula with No 1 albums including *Fireball* and *Machine Head* (original home of "Smoke on the Water"). It was also the blueprint for a subsequent wave of awe-wielding Brit-rockers from Iron Maiden to ex-Purple vocalist David Coverdale's Whitesnake.

NEXT WEEK: Def Leppard, Depeche Mode

Solution to Jumbo puzzle

Here is the solution to The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword competition published on Saturday December 23. The five winners, who each received a prize of £50, are Mr D.P. Pearce, of Kingsway, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mrs A.C.W. Owen, West Dene, Westbury on Trym, Bristol; Miss N.D. Wickes, Rivendell, Waynflete Avenue, Brackley, Northamptonshire; H. Horry, Barithon, Hall Lane, Mobberley, Knutsford, Cheshire, and H. Evans, Leaside Avenue, Muswell Hill, north London.

Entries for the New Year Jumbo Crossword competition must arrive by Monday. Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened. Entries should be addressed to The Times New Year Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.



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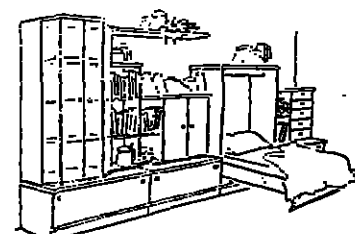
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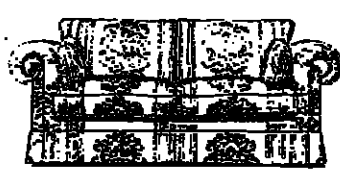
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SHOPPING

Brushing on a broader canvas

Nicole Swengley talks to a watercolourist who has turned his skills to designing and producing wallpapers and fabrics

When Glynn Boyd Harte, the artist and *Times* illustrator, failed to find the wallpapers and fabrics he wanted for his newly acquired 18th-century London house, he decided to design and produce his own. This week his work goes on sale at interior design shops throughout the country.

The collection, under the Dolphin Studio label, is in the style of the watercolours for which Boyd Harte is renowned. His flowers are life-size, realistically coloured and shadowed to make them appear three-dimensional. "My flowers are drawn naturally, not stylized," he says. "I don't think this has been attempted on fabric or wallpaper before."

"I wanted to get away from two extremes — the English nostalgia for the sprigged, Victorian look, and the modern movement which seems to have got stuck in the Sixties. I feel that colour and freshness is lacking in many modern designs because they are all so pared down."

Using the production methods employed by artist-craftsmen of the past, Boyd Harte draws each colour separation himself, which eliminates any mechanical preparation before the cloth or paper is dyed. "I've always liked working with other craftsmen so I am very happy working alongside proofers who mix the colour, and the wallpaper manufacturers," he says. "I think it's the artist's role to be involved with every aspect of the job. There's nothing quite like watching hundreds of yards of your own fabric being printed."

Starting with William Morris, there has been a long history in Britain of artists producing decorative crafts in this way. But, with modern art education pigeon-holding students into specific areas, traditional processes have been lost. It is this tradition of applied decoration and the spirit of artist-involvement which Boyd Harte hopes to revive in his work for the Dolphin Studio.

"Art schools blinker you into one department or another," he laments. "I feel strongly that if you are an artist you should do a whole range of things. I studied illustration at the Royal College of Art but I class myself as a painter — though one who equally likes the decorative application of painting walls."

Boyd Harte qualified from



Design for living: Glynn Boyd Harte with part of his collection

the RCA in 1973 and has since held 10 one-man exhibitions of watercolours, lithographs and drawings in London, Paris and New York. He has produced six limited edition books and an illustrated account of life in Venice.

But it was his imaginative decoration of the Dolphin Brasserie in London, with its underwater scenes translated to carpets, curtains, furnishing fabric, plates, menus and murals, which provided the inspiration for forming the Dolphin Studio.

Nicholas Crawley, the owner of the brasserie, was so impressed with Boyd Harte's designs that he encouraged him to put into production the fabric and wallpapers the artist was designing for his London house. As the director of several hotels and restaurants, Crawley is well placed in his role as commercial development director of

Dolphin Studio. Other members of the company are Joanna Holcroft, managing director, who has worked in the wallpaper and textile industry since 1976, and Dr Miriam Stoppard, chairman, better known for her television medical programmes, articles and books.

"The Stoppards have always bought paintings at my exhibitions and have given me a lot of encouragement so it seemed natural that Miriam should become involved. She has amazing business acumen and was the managing director of a pharmaceutical company and a furniture design business for several years."

As design director of Dolphin Studio, Boyd Harte's knowledge of specialist printing techniques, gained by producing lithographs, etchings and silk screens, is put to excellent use. But, though the studio will initially produce

only his designs — he is aiming to produce an annual collection — it is hoped that it will eventually commission designs from other well-known artists once the style and range has become established.

"We decided to start with a compact collection (there are six fabrics, six wallpapers and four borders) because I feel we can wait to include larger designs. I have hundreds up my sleeve. We also want to be able to adapt to our customers' tastes."

Boyd Harte hopes to produce a range based on old French wallpapers for 1992 and is keen to come up with a special range for the United States, where tastes tend to favour bolder designs than in Britain. He also plans a range of seaweed and coral designs for bathrooms. At first, the ranges will be aimed at the domestic market but he hopes that later there will be corporate collections for boardrooms and offices.

"We're keen to come up with designs that are distinctly new and to use Irish linen and good quality papers," he says.

Boyd Harte feels that his prices compare favourably with collections by Osborne & Little and Colefax & Fowler. Like these established companies, Dolphin Studio will shortly have a sample book at most interior design outlets.

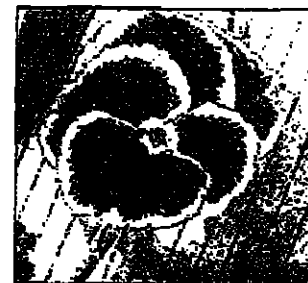
As for the future, he says: "It has always been my ambition to open a shop with all kinds of decorative accessories — plates, gift-wrap and so on; not an interior decoration shop as such but an outlet for adapting my own designs to a whole range of items."

In time, it may well turn out that this initial collection of fabrics and wallpapers is just the first brushstroke on a very broad canvas.

Dolphin Studio wallpapers are made in the UK, and rolls measure 52cm wide and 10.05m long. Prices range from £16.50 a roll for "Dolphin Stripe" to £25.95 for "Pansy". Borders, which vary in size from 8.5cm x 10.05m to 10.05cm x 10.05m, cost £11.90 each. The fabrics are 100 per cent cotton (except for a large check in linen union), measuring 137cm wide. Prices range from £13.90 a metre for a small check to £27.90 for "Anemone". "Pansy" and "Parrot Tulips". Prices exclude VAT.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROS DRINKWATER



Top: mix of checks and "Pansy" prints. Centre: "Parrot Tulip" (left) and "Anemone" (right). Left: "Creamware" border (far left), "Golden Trellis" border, "Lag and Feather" border (centre), and "Anemone" detail. Boyd Harte says: "My flowers are drawn naturally, not stylized, with shadows incorporated to give a three-dimensional look."

New line in table talk

CHARLES MILLIGAN

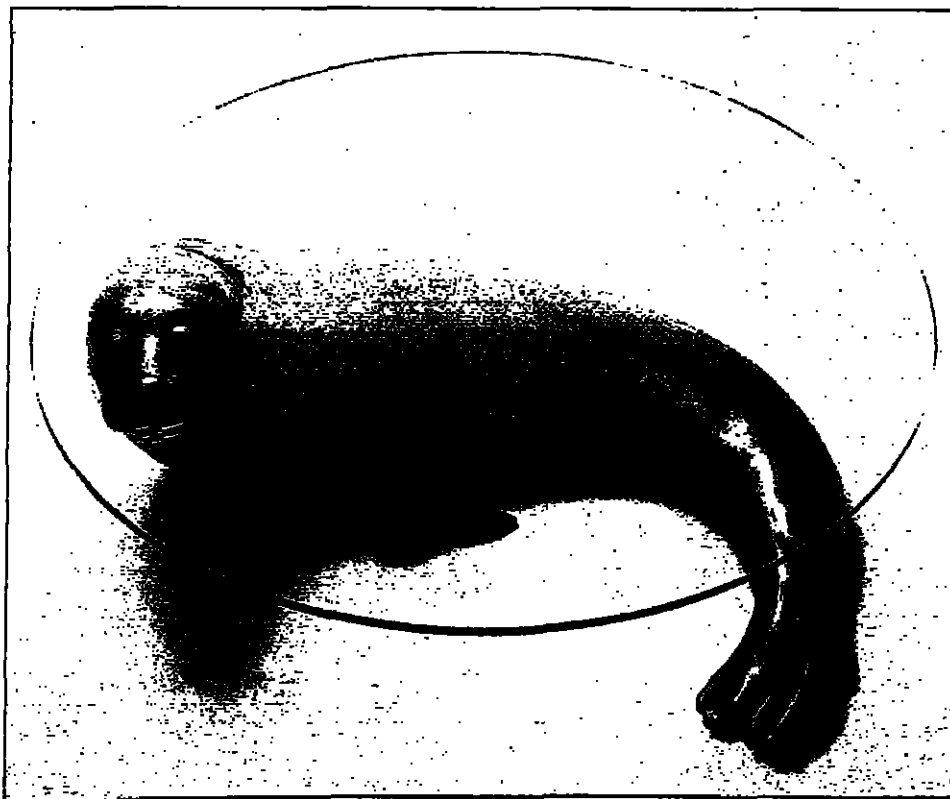
These tables are conversation pieces in their own right

Once, coffee tables were the unobtrusive holders of piles of magazines, luxurious books, plants, coffee mugs and wine glasses, without so much as a whisper about themselves. Whether made of glass, wood or metal, it was their bland neutrality which characterized them. Now they have become conversation pieces in their own right, crying out for attention (Nicole Swengley writes).

For example, Peter Luck-Hille's flamboyant tablescapes incorporate abstract cut-outs in Day-Glo acrylic representing trees, buildings and people. Miniature, model electric or steam railways can be supplied to complete the effect, which can be re-arranged at the owner's whim by removing the glass top and changing the scenery inside.

The tables are made by Main Line Trains, who build model railways for private and commercial clients. Table bases are constructed in geometric lattice style and are available in a variety of sizes. Each table is custom-made to individual requirements and costs from £795. For details, phone 01-722 4957.

Luck-Hille, the managing director, whose great-grandfather founded the Hille furniture company, has always admired pieces which make a statement. "I'm into furniture as art. Furniture that has something to say for itself," he explains. "I have always had a penchant for unusual coffee tables. Then I got into producing trains, so it seemed natural to develop the concept of a coffee table with a train running around inside."



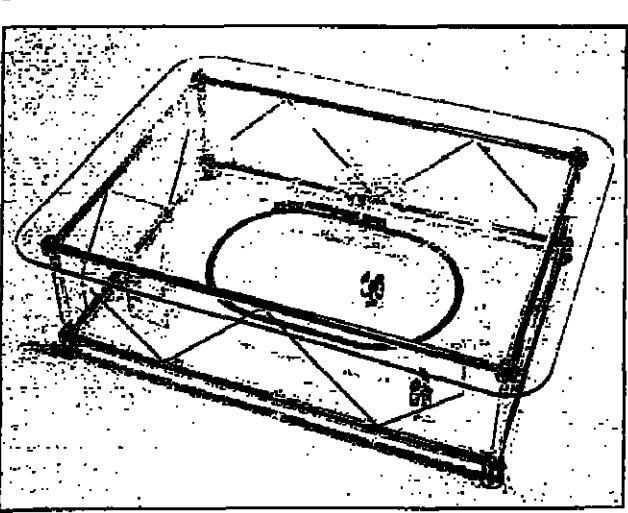
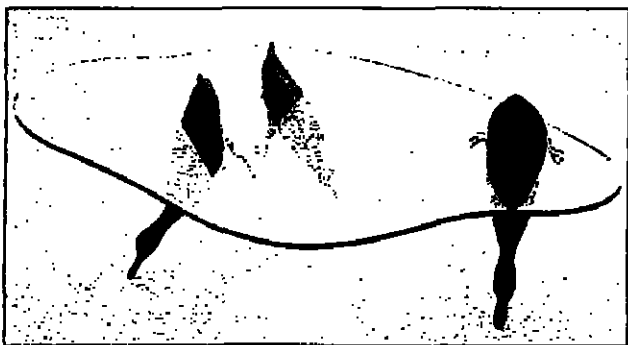
Seal table by Derek Pearce, £1,800

figures rising through and above a glass horizontal which forms the table top. Prices start at £1,800 for the seal table; the ducks and hippo tables cost £3,500.

With a background in theatrical set designing and musical composition for film and theatre, Pearce says that he likes to work in a variety of artistic areas. "I'm basically concerned with developing ideas, so the wood or metal are vehicles for making an idea work. The means to an end."

It was the realization that glass-topped coffee tables appear to have a watery surface that prompted this first venture into making the kind of pieces which hover between sculpture and furniture. That, and the fact that humour is a vital element of the concept. "I feel the humorous element is important in breaking down preconceived notions about art and the way people think things should be," he says.

Pearce (known to his friends as "Egg") accepts commissions from those who share his sense of whimsy. He can be contacted on 01-674 2074.



Tablescapes (above) by Main Line Trains, from £795. Upturned ducks table (centre) by Derek Pearce, £3,500

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THE WEEK AHEAD

GALLERIES

DAVID LEE



Character study: a Hals creation

ARSHILE GORKY (1904-1948): A retrospective of paintings and drawings by an American abstract expressionist forerunner of Pollock and Rothko. Whitechapel Art Gallery, London E1 (01-377 0107). From Fri.

THEMATA: New drawings by Deanna Petherbridge in his artist's familiar "architectural" style but now with narrative overtones due to the introduction of figures. Fischer Fine Art, London SW1 (01-839 3942). From Thurs.

DEGAS IMAGES OF WOMEN: Paintings, drawings and pastels of a whole range of subjects from prostitutes to laundresses and society women. Burrell Collection, Glasgow (041 649 7151). From Mon.

NORTHLANDS: New art from Scandinavia. Museum of Modern Art, Oxford (0865 728608). From Sun.

THE TREE OF LIFE: Thematic works by 21 contemporary artists such as Bill Woodrow and Lili Flecher. DLI Museum, Durham (091-384 2214). From today.

JACK SMITH: New, abstract "musical" paintings by a founder member of the Kitchen Sink School of social realism in the 1950s. Flowers East, London E8 (01-985 3333). From Tues.

The two most remarkable works among the 66 paintings by Francis Hals (1581-1666), which go on show today at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, are the late group portraits of the Regents and Regentesses of the Old Men's Almshouse in Haarlem, the artist's home town. Besides being considered among the greatest character studies ever painted, they hold the key to Hals's life and work. It is important to remember that the subjects of these pictures were the same charity governors responsible for periodically dispensing to the artist hand-outs of fuel and shelter. His life hitherto had been a catalogue of brushes with the authority represented by such wealthy notables. He was yearly in court for debt and was finally declared bankrupt. He also drank heavily and may have been disposed to violence; he was rumoured to have killed his first wife in a drunken rage. Of his eight children one was mad and another was incarcerated, apparently for loose morals. Between frequent appearances in the dock, Hals managed to develop a virtuoso painting technique well suited to the cocky, ruddy-faced characters he portrayed. All of the bravura typifying his free style was employed in his portrayals of the Regents to expose their mean and smug conceits. This is one exhibition not to be missed. Royal Academy of Arts, London W1 (01-439 7438). From today. Champagne reception on Tuesday in aid of the Haemophilia Society (tickets: 01-834 7566).



Suzman, Sutherland: white angst

CINEMA

GEOFF BROWN

JESUS OF MONTREAL (18): An updated version of a Passion Play causes controversy in Montreal. Strained satirical fireworks from Canadian director Denys Arcand. Lumiere (01-636 0691). From Fri.

SISTERS (15): Engaging romantic comedy with fairytale trimmings. Patrick Dempsey as an American student spending Christmas with an eccentric Quebec family. Directed by Michael Hoffman. Cannon Pantom Street (01-930 0631). From Fri.

SCENES FROM THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN IN BEVERLY HILLS (18): Satirical fun and games with a soft centre from director-actor Paul Bartel, with Jacqueline Bisset as an actress attempting a comeback. Cannon Haymarket (01-939 1527). From Fri.

Six years separate Euzhan Palcy's first feature *Rue Cases Nègres* from her second, *A Dry White Season*, a powerful assault on apartheid, based on André Brink's novel. But the years were certainly not spent idly. In 1984, the Martinique-born film-maker optioned Brink's combustible book, which had been published five years before and swiftly banned by the South African censor. Thereafter she doggedly began nurturing a script. Once producer Paula Weinstein joined the project, David Puttnam suggested Colin Welland as a suitable writer to handle the story of two families — one white, one black — devastated by the violent Soweto uprising of 1976. Marlon Brando was the first actor to sign on, taking the cameo role of McKenzie, a civil rights lawyer; fortunately for the production, he waived his fee. Main parts went to Donald Sutherland playing a complacent teacher belatedly politicized by the brutal fate of his black gardener, Janet Suzman as Sutherland's inflexible wife, and Zakes Mole, who was last seen oozing evil in *The Serpent and the Rainbow*, shot in Zimbabwe, has already been seen in specialized venues in South Africa, including a cinema bordering Soweto itself, where the response was apparently overwhelming. "Now we can see the truth," one audience member said. Curzon West End (01-439 4805), certificate 15. From Friday.



Cheryl Campbell as the constant wife: revealing how much the Nineties are in tune with the Twenties

Cheryl Campbell heads the distinguished cast of a new production of *The Constant Wife*, Somerset Maugham's 1920 "masterpiece", which Lucy Parker is directing for Teatr Cymru in its studio space, the Emrys Williams Theatre, before touring it to Bangor, Cardiff, Brighton and Aberystwyth. Campbell plays Constance, the wife of the title, with James Faulkner as her husband, Matilda Ziegler her young daughter, Faith Brook her mother, Giles Watling (from *Bread*) her lover, Susan Kyd her husband's lover, and Toby Robertson the lover's cuckolded husband. Parker says of the play: "It is very crisp and contemporary. One of its themes is how having an economic life of one's own

LONDON MIMIC FESTIVAL: World's largest festival of mime and visual theatre. Free programme booklet from London Mime Festival, 28 Museum Street WC1 (01-637 5861). Various venues. From Mon to Jan 28.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Ashton's great romantic comedy *La Fille Mal Gardée* returns to the programmes (Tues, Wed, Thurs), with Lesley Collier and Stephen Jeffries dancing on the Tues. This time the ballet will be accompanied by a new staging of the virtuoso *Pas de Six* from Chabukiani's baller *Laurencia*, a showpiece of the Kirov repertoire. Further performances of *Cherubino*, this afternoon and evening, Fri and Sat Jan 20. Sylvie Guillem takes the title role today and Fri, and Maria Almeida on Sat Jan 20. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: Final week of the *Nutcracker* season, today and Monday to Jan 20, with matinees on Sat. Royal Festival Hall (01-928 8800).

THEATRE

TONY PATRICK

Constance her husband is unfaithful, and she is deliberately not getting the message. Finally there is the value of discretion: when her younger daughter argues the pre-eminence of frankness to Constance, she replies: "Frankness, of course, is the pose of the moment", which is only one example of how directly the play speaks to us now, and how much we now seem to be in tune with the Twenties." *The Constant Wife*, Teatr Cymru, Mold (0352 55114). Previews from Friday. Opens January 23.

THE POLICE: English premiere for Polish farce about a police state. The Drum, Theatre Royal, Plymouth (0752 669595). Opens Wed.

VALUED FRIENDS: Michael

Angels, Josie Lawrence, Jimmy Mulville, Louise Rix in return of Stephen Jeffries's comedy. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Centre NW3 (01-722 9301). Previews from Thurs. Opens Jan 22.

BROADCASTING

A SENSE OF GUILT: Hot-blooded drama by Andrea (Bouquet of Barbed Wire) Newman with Trevor Eve as a horrible-but-human novelist wrecking the lives of all those around him. BBC1, Tues, 9.30-10.10pm.

THE EARLY HOURS OF A REVILED MAN: Latest of several collaborations between actor Ian McDiarmid and playwright Howard Barker in which an anti-Semitic writer makes a nightmare journey of self-hatred and self-revelation. Radio 3, Tues, 9.45-11pm.

SOPHIE'S CHOICE (1982): Oscar-winning performance from Meryl Streep in Alan J. Pakula's meticulous, if overlong, study of a concentration camp survivor. BBC1, Fri, 9.30-11.55pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY

JOHN SWANNELL: The glamorous world of fashion by one of the top names in the field. Joan Collins, Grace Jones, John Hurt and Bob Geldof have also been photographed by him. Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh (031 555 8921). From Jan 18.

MARTIN PARR: Young British photographer's sometimes acerbic view of the affluent life of southern England. Large colour prints lend this exploration of consumerism a glossy veneer that matches the subject. Still, one is left with the overall impression that Parr's earlier photo-journalistic exploits — *The Last Resort* and *One Day Trip* — were stronger. The Photographers Gallery, London WC2 (01-631 1772).

ROCK

DAVID SINCLAIR

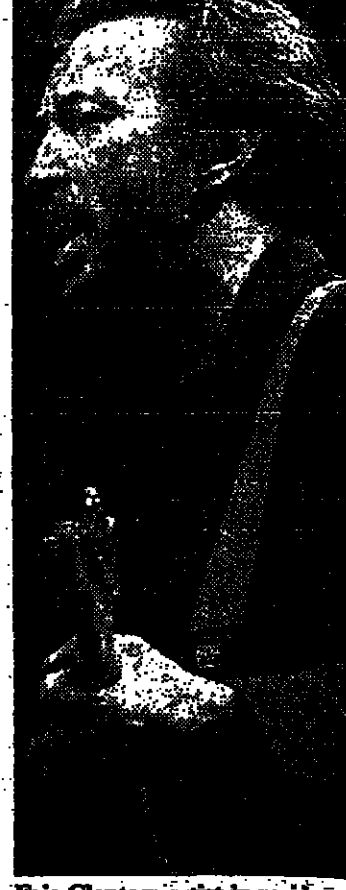
LENNY KRAVITZ: Twenty-five-year-old dread-rocker from New York whose closest spiritual relations must include Terence Trent D'Arby and Prince. Mon, Marquee, London WC2 (01-437 6603); Wed, Boardwalk, Manchester (081 228 3555).

ERASURE: Second leg of the duo's longest-ever UK tour, at the end of which they will have performed before a total audience of more than 230,000 people. Tues and Wed, Whitley Bay Ice Rink (091 252 8240); Thurs, SECC, Glasgow (041 248 3000).

RED LORRY YELLOW LORRY: Last September's *Blow* found the Lories adding some surprisingly tuneful colourings to their mournful, clumpy Goth-rock sound. Tues, Barberrys, Birmingham (021 643 1500); Wed, Huddersfield Polytechnic (0484 536156); Thurs, Beths Hall, Scunthorpe (0724 842332).

THE ALARM: Increasingly slick post-punk rockers with a mission to champion the Welsh language by conquering the American charts. Fri, Music Hall, Aberdeen (0224 641122).

ALLAN TITMUS



Eric Clapton, artist in residence

Contemplating the start of his third January residency at London's Royal Albert Hall, Eric Clapton let it be known that he now regards this annual exercise as something akin to a rock equivalent of the Proms. Leaving aside the towering egotism of the man, such aspirations speak volumes about the institutionalized respectability of a performer who, 25 years ago, left the Yardbirds because their increasingly "commercial" approach rubbed against the grain of his then puritanical obsession with the blues. As a nod in the direction of those long-gone days, Clapton plans to render three of these concerts (February 3, 4 and 5) as a celebration of the blues, and has enlisted the help of Robert Cray, the genre's outstanding Young Turk, and Chicago veteran Buddy Guy. More ominously, he has also commissioned Michael Kamen, with whom he worked on the scores of *Edge of Darkness* and *Lethal Weapon 2*, to write him a full-blown concerto for guitar to be performed on February 8, 9 and 10. The rest of the shows promise to be the usual formula of nonchalant, well-heeled excellence, played by the usual crack backing band, although enlivened by some of the less familiar material from *Journeyman*, Clapton's new album. NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133), tomorrow, Mon and Tues, Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (01-589 8212), January 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, February 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10.

OPERA

OPERA NORTH: Show Boat, the highly successful RSC collaboration, continues its run on Mon, Tues, Thurs and Sat Jan 20. New production of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* by Patrick Mason, tonight, Wed and Fri, with Andrew Shore in the title role. Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 459351).

NATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE: Wed sees the opening of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* by Brecht. Stephen Warlock's Chinese-influenced score accompanies the play in a production of typical invention and enterprise. Daily from Wed at 7.30pm. Sadler's Wells Theatre, London EC1 (01-278 8916).

CONCERTS

NEW NEW TESTAMENT: Stephen Harrap conducts the London Sinfonietta and others in the United Kingdom premiere of the new version of Berio's *Capriccio* Novissimi Testament II, and the UK premiere of *Chorus*. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Mon, 7.45pm.

MORE HAYDN: Adding another contribution to the current series of concerts devoted to Haydn, the British Quartet plays the Quartets Op 76 Nos 2, 4 and 6. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Tues, 7.45pm.

RARE SIBELIUS: After playing Beethoven's Quartet Op 59 No 1 the Gabrieli Quartet is joined by pianist Anthony Goldstone for what is thought to be the London premiere of Sibelius's Piano Quintet. Wigmore Hall, 35 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Wed, 7.30pm.

SILK STREET SEASONS: John Eliot Gardiner conducts the Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque Soloists and others in Haydn's *The Seasons*. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.45pm.

ZADOK AND NELSON: The Choir of New College, Oxford, the City of London Sinfonia and soloists are conducted by Edward Higginbotham in performances of Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and Haydn's "Nelson" Mass. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061). Fri, 7.30pm.

BRIDGE

In one of his last columns for *The Times*, Jeremy Flint gave a handy tactical tip: if you know what your final contract is likely to be, go there at once; don't give your opponents room to find their best contract. South scored a big gain for his side by taking this advice on the following hand:

Rubber bridge. Game all. Dealer South.

♠ A 10 4 3
♥ J 10 6 5 3
♦ J 8 7 6
♣ K 9 8 6
N E S
W 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
E 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
S 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♠ A 10 4 3
♥ J 10 6 5 3
♦ J 8 7 6
♣ K 9 8 6

South opened with the gambling three no trump and West was in a spot. Some players use a four club or diamond bid in this situation to show a shortage in the bid suit, but without such a gadget West could only double. North bid a conventional four clubs to show that he could not stand the double, and now it was East's turn to double.

South could pretty well work out that East-West were very likely to make game and possibly slam, so he made the fine bid of five diamonds. West doubled, and that was the end of the auction. Obviously declarer took only nine tricks, but a penalty of 350 turned out to be a good score.

West was clearly at fault here. He should have passed the five diamond bid (1) because he has already bid his hand fully, and (2) because a double of five diamonds would tend to suggest that his side had diamond losers and

to warn his partner against bidding on. If five diamonds goes round to East undoubled, East probably has enough to try five hearts and West has another tricky decision: whether to raise five hearts to six or not.

Six hearts does in fact make on a dummy reversal. Declarer ruffs two diamonds, draws trumps, leads twice towards the Q J 5 of spades — obviously North cannot rise with the ace — cashes the ace and queen of clubs and plays off the last two trumps in the East hand. In the three-card position North has to bare his ace of spades in order to keep the club guard, and a spade lead now end-plays him. A neat squeeze and throw-in, and 1,430 points to East-West.

Sacrificing at rubber bridge is not a precise art, and is little understood by the general run of players. One authority goes so far as to state that "broadly speaking, there is little future in sacrificing at rubber bridge", but this is not the whole story.

Clearly, if you are playing with the weakest player at the table, sacrificing is lunatic: you are handing your opponents money for the privilege of continuing to play against them at a disadvantage. By the same token, if you and your partner are the stronger pair it is worth paying a little to stay in the game. But you still run the risk of making a phantom sacrifice, of going down to prevent them going down.

Tactics do require a degree of personal flair but another area of the game, technique, can simply be learnt. No competent player would nowadays make South's mistake on the next deal.

Rubber bridge. North-South 90. Dealer South.

♠ A 8 5
♥ A 8 3
♦ K 5
♣ J 10 8 2
N E S
W 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
E 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
S 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
♠ A 8 5
♥ A 8 3
♦ K 5
♣ J 10 8 2

At the score, North's two heart response might have been a bid from weakness or a slam try. South made an exploratory cue bid, got a cue bid straight back, and that was enough for him.

West led a diamond, which declarer won in hand. He cleared trumps, returned to the diamond king and successfully finessed the club jack. South cut the cards and wrote down 1,000 for the grand slam bonus. "Nice try," said one of the opposition, "but you were only playing a small slam." South corrected the score and admitted sheepishly that he had thought he was in seven. West was not mean enough to point out that in that case South's play had been all wrong.

Of course, anyone can make 12 tricks, but the play for 13 is different. After drawing trumps declarer plays off the two top clubs, and if the queen does not fall he then finessees in spades. A pity South wasn't playing a grand slam... he would have made it where an expert might have failed.

John Graham

CHESS

It is normally the Grandmaster section of the Foreign & Colonial Tournament at Hastings which commands public attention. This year, however, the bold exploits of the Dundee Master, Colin McNab, in the Foreign & Colonial Challengers group, seized most of the headlines. The winner of the Challengers qualifies for next year's elite GM competition. This year that honour fell to England's Tony Kosten, who also completed his qualifications for the grandmaster title. Nevertheless, in terms of playing style, McNab shone against a field of experienced masters and grandmasters from the US and east and west Europe, displaying a remarkable flair for the initiative.

Foreign & Colonial Hastings Challengers. McNab-Wojtkiewicz. Hedgehog Opening.

Black is basing his play on the assumption that White will eventually sacrifice a tempo with d3-d4 to reach a normal Hedgehog.

This move does not fit into a Hedgehog formation. Traditionally the Black queen's rook should go to c8. The d6 pawn has plenty of protection in any case and, as we shall see, the rook on d8 is exposed to attack.

A remarkably self-confident decision, which might have rebounded by weakening

White's own pawn structure. This move and White's next are designed to force Black to react to the threat of g5 and thereby loosen the pawns around his king.

A wonderful sacrifice. Black has to accept, but in short order both his king and queen come under fire.

Now we see why the placing of the Black rook on d8 was unfortunate. Black cannot capture on c6 without ruinous loss of material.

White does not capture immediately. First he sets in motion a murderous mass of central pawns.

White to play and win. What is White's winning move?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times* Chess Competition, The Times, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a *Times* winner's personal chess computer. The winning move will be printed in *The Times* next Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: White wins with 1 Rxd3 Kxd3 2 Rxd3 g4.

The three winners of *The Times* personal chess computers are: F. C. E. Smith, Solihull, West Midlands; Henry L. Garbutt, South Croydon, Surrey; Noel Curry, Carmarthen, Co. Mayo, Ireland.

28 Qxd4 Nc5 29 Bg2 Kd5 30 Qd4 Qd7 31 Rf1+ Kd6 32 Qxd6 Bg4 33 Bxd3

With the threat of Rxf3+, 33... Nc7 34 Bxd3 Qd7 35 Re1+ Bc7 36 Qd7

In the time scramble Black loses all his pieces.

Former Prime Minister Lord Callaghan awards the prizes in the Foreign & Colonial Grandmaster section, which ends at Hastings tomorrow night.

WINNING MOVE

White to play and win. What is White's winning move?

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CROSSWORD

CONCISE NO 2075

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions entered on Thursday, January 18. Entries should be addressed to: *The Times* Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 20.

ACROSS
1 Sturdy (6)
2 Steel hardening element (5)
3 Royal Engineers (7)
4 Contrary (7)
5 Little pill (6)
6 Rabbitt viral disease (11)
7 See (11)
8 Support (4)
9 Blend (7)
10 Trickle (7)
11 Norway sea inlets (6)
12 Midshipman (6)
13 Feeding twinges (4)
14 Trojan siege poem (5)

DOWN
1 Outcome (6)
2 Steel hardening element (5)
3 Royal Engineers (7)
4 Contrary (7)
5 Little pill (6)
6 Rabbitt viral disease (11)
7 See (11)
8 Support (4)
9 Blend (7)
10 Trickle (7)
11 Norway sea inlets (6)
12 Midshipman (6)
13 Feeding twinges (4)
14 Trojan siege poem (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 2074

ACROSS: 8 Headdress 9 Alien 10 RAC 11 Molt Scale 12 Sins 14 Customs 17 Labe 18 19 AWACS 22 Bric-a-brac 24 Cub 25 End up 26 Re-act

DOWN: 1 Sharps 2 Canaan 3 Chumney 4 On the contrary 5 Jaws 6 Figure 7 Eaters 13 Ice 15 Searched 16 Mac 17 Labret 18 Blinds 20 Archer 21 Sabote 23 Alps

The winners of prize concise No 2069 are: Miss H. Turner, Chesterfield, Derbyshire; Allan Gould, Sudbury, Suffolk.

SOLUTION TO NO 2069 (last Saturday's prize concise)

ACROSS: 1 Refuge 4 Doom 7 Sad 9 Conack 10 Rifle 11 Psycho 12 Encounter 16 Jumping the gun 19 Cosa 20 Raretit 21 Ney 22 Sid 23 Ascend

DOWN: 1 Recipe 2 Fussy 3 Graphic 5 Officer 6 Monthly 7 Skull 8 Dugger 9 Drag 12 El Misi 13 T Sudis 14 Ejects 15 United

Name: _____ Address: _____

كلا من الأصل

Coe is a gazelle with the snarl of a tiger

Sydney

It has been said that in political journalism, journalists are writing as if they disliked people they rather liked, whereas in sport the journalists write as if they liked people whom they cordially despise.

Sebastian Coe is playing out the last reel of his sporting life and preparing to join the more grown-up fantasy world of politics. So perhaps this will be the last uncritically friendly press conference of his life.

He conducted it here yesterday on the 31st floor of a building overlooking the bridge and the opera house, and he did so with a sort of self-contented breeziness that will no doubt become part of his stock-in-trade when he starts running for Thatcher.

"I've got other things to think about now, other things to do. And I want to retire at a first-class level..."

He runs tomorrow in a



Simon Barnes

warm-up meeting here, and then on to Auckland and the Commonwealth Games for the last attempt at one of those yellow medals. He tries his usual double of 800 and 1,500 metres.

The Commonwealth Games is usually thought to be a pretty sub-standard athletics competition. But this time (touch wood) we have no major boycott, and that means the Kenyan legends will be with us. Indeed, the Kenyan coach has announced that Kenya will win every gold from 400m up.

So if anyone was thinking that Coe was planning a final cakewalk, a last cheap medal to enter politics with a final flourish of golden publicity, think again. Coe will have to

earn this one. "It is very important that I race as well as possible," he said. Racing as well as possible has, for about 20 years, been the most important thing in the entire world for Coe. It will be strange for him when this is no longer the case.

"I remember before my finals, thinking of all the great things I would do when they were over, how much time I would have. The day after I had finished, I just sat around in the flat. I couldn't think what to do." Steve Davis has said that the aftermath of a major championship always leaves him depressed, even, or perhaps especially, if he has won it. The aftermath of a career like Coe's could be desperately hard to handle.

But hangovers are the last thing he is thinking about right now. He is in the routine, familiar and well-loved, of preparing for a major championship: a preparation that has

gone singularly well this time. Coe was at his most cat-like yesterday, relaxed and absolutely easy with himself. He made you think that it must be rather splendid to be an athlete at the absolute pinnacle of condition.

"No, it would be foolish to say that athletics is a good preparation for a career in politics," he said. "In some day-to-day things, like experience of handling the media, sure, it will help. But it is things I have done outside sport that will help me more."

Coe will go into politics as a very popular fellow. It is strange how, once people have decided on a person's character, they will not change their minds ever, no matter how much irrefutable evidence they have to the contrary.

Everybody knows that Coe is the nice one to be compared and contrasted with Steve Ovett, who was supposed to be the nasty one. People were

happy with such an archetypal simplification. Ovett was cunning, a tricky racer, a scrapper, arrogant and tough. Coe was a gazelle in human form, charming, self-effacing, and handed a gift that all but overwhelmed him.

Ovett is, I am told, one of the nicest fellows you could wish to meet. And Coe has a thick streak of toughness in him, and he also has an almost overpowering aggression.

He has even displayed this in public. After his second Olympic gold medal, the one in Los Angeles, he celebrated his victory with a fit of what looked like psychotic rage, his face distorted quite horribly. He was raging drunk on adrenalin: "Who says I'm finished?" he roared at the press box, thrusting his index finger skywards as if he wanted to cause a permanent injury to the air around him.

He had won the race, not through mere natural talent

and grace, but through driving aggression, through a desire for victory that was greater and stronger than that of anyone else in the race. That is how I will always think of Coe: Coe unmasked, stripped naked of his genuine charm by the truth of his victory.

But never mind the facts: Coe is, thus far, inviolate: the nice guy. "No, I am not hoping to become a sports minister. I have broad interests." He is prospective parliamentary candidate for Falmouth and Camborne, and in a few weeks will be out there in Cornwall doing his bit for his team.

You can't wrong-foot him here: he has done a lot of homework about the place, and talks about matters affecting the constituency, with great élan. He is eager to let you know that you can't wrong-foot him as well. Still, I suppose MPs who take an interest in their constituencies are rare enough, and should be

savoured as a novelty. Now there is a piece of cheap, gratuitous cynicism for you. But Coe is in for a whole lot more of this. It is impossible not to question anybody in politics: from there cynicism is an easy and natural step. Coe, who is supremely used to being liked and admired, is going to have to get used to being cordially disliked by a great many people.

I remember talking to Wes Hall, the former West Indian fast bowler, now Minister for Sport in Barbados. I asked him if being a hugely popular sportsman had helped him in his political career. "When I was a cricketer, everyone on the island liked me," he said, saying this as a semi-joke. "Now I am in politics, maybe half of them hate me."

If Coe does as well as that in Falmouth and Camborne, he will have done well. Commonwealth gold medal or no. Sporting diary, page 10



TRAVEL

BEHIND THE MASKS OF CARNIVAL

From Venice to Rio, from Vienna to Cologne, the carnival is an occasion of modern entertainment and ancient rite. In Rome the she-wolf was fêted by the annual release of prisoners, writes Hilary Finch, but it was when the rites of paganism and Christianity collided that carnival was born. Page 63

WHY IT'S A PLEASURE TO SKI USA

While the ski prospects in Europe remain poor in many areas, the skiing in America is as good as ever, reports Brian James. It is not so much the altitude as the attitude which makes the transatlantic crossing worthwhile. Page 59



WATCHING FOR THE WHALES

Off the coast of Cape Cod families of humpback and minke whales feed in the shallow waters with such obliging regularity that their presence has stimulated a flourishing boat-trip business. Nancy Lee Patton took the half-hour journey to watch the giants of the sea. Page 61

Ryan to discover the harsh reality of management

By Louise Taylor

After the trauma of having three different managers and two chairmen in the space of a fortnight, Anfield is surely the last place Linton Town would have wished to visit this afternoon. Not according to Jimmy Ryan, the man who succeeded Ray Harford and Terry Mancini as manager of the relegation-threatened Bedfordshire club. After his first day in charge, Ryan yesterday declared: "Liverpool have never frightened me."

If Harford lacked "charisma", Ryan is certainly not short on bravado. "I am not daunted by the prospect of Liverpool," he added. "In fact I would much rather start off with the big-game atmosphere. Better Anfield than somewhere like Gillingham or Hartlepool."

Behind the facade, Ryan, formerly in charge of the reserves, is well aware of the reality that is Linton's failure to win any of their last 10 League games. In the process they have slumped to second from bottom in the first division.

Charlton Athletic, the cushion between Linton and the bottom, and Aston Villa, breathing heavily down Liverpool's neck at the top of the table, meet at Selhurst Park in a match both want to win for

very different, if obvious, reasons.

If Graham Taylor, Villa's manager, is seeking the England job this summer, he is certainly timing his run right. His team may be the "form team", of the moment, but Southampton, lying fourth and beaten only once in 10 games, are not far behind.

They follow up last week's FA Cup win at Tottenham Hotspur by entertaining Everton at the Dell. Just 48 hours after submitting a written transfer request, Cottee is included in the visiting squad, and is expected to take his now normal seat on the substitutes' bench. He has struggled to start in an attack which, for all the ability of Newell and Sharp, has managed only eight goals in the last 12 games.

After earning a reprieve by putting Nottingham Forest out of the FA Cup last weekend, Alex Ferguson must consolidate his managerial position at Old Trafford by rejuvenating Manchester United's league form. He aims to end a run of eight games without a win at home, against a Derby County side seeking its third consecutive win against United. Convinced, publicly at least, that his fortunes have turned, Ferguson said: "We are such an inspirational club that last

Sunday's win can be a lift to both supporters and players, and be just the boost we needed." Derby, smarting after Wednesday's FA Cup exit to Port Vale will be out to prove him wrong.

The long ball meets the short in East Anglia where promotion pushing Ipswich Town, beaten only once in their last 15 encounters, and playing some delightful one touch stuff, will endeavour to combat the "route one" approach as practised by Sheffield United.

Exactly 21 years after taking charge of Ipswich, Bobby Robson, now the England manager, will be amongst the Portman Road crowd.

His interest will be heightened should Lowe, returning after a lengthy absence following a knee operation, step off the substitutes' bench. It is somewhat surprising that Ipswich's recent good run has coincided with the loss of the former England under-21 international forward, who is arguably their best player.

Sheffield United are one place and two points behind Leeds United, another Yorkshire side with a similarly dire philosophy. Chapman, a £400,000 midweek signing from Nottingham Forest leads their attack at Blackburn Rovers.

Ascot success for The Welder

IAN STEWART



The Welder (Willie McFarland, left) jumps the last fractionally ahead of Broad Beam (David Hood, right) and A Lad Insane (Ian Lawrence) in the Bucktail Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase at Ascot yesterday. Racing, pages 54-55

Racehorse drops in at public house

Gospel Rock, who was having his first race in the Whistler Novices' Handicap at Wetherby yesterday, ran off the course and ended up in the Swan and Talbot public house in the village of Wetherby.

The six-year-old, ridden by Graham Bradley, was in the lead until falling to negotiate

the bottom bend where he jumped the perimeter fence, throwing his jockey.

Bradley, who like Gospel Rock escaped unscathed, said: "The horse was very green and just bolted. I was very lucky to land on the grass verge just feet from the A1 where traffic was going up and down."

Peter Calver, the gelding's trainer, said: "I can't understand what made him do it. I have hunted him several times and he has shown no signs of waywardness. He has no more than a few cuts which is incredible as he jumped some barbed wire and went through a concrete post."

The Ripon trainer has been plagued with misfortune at Wetherby over the years. "I didn't want to run him there," Calver said. "It's an excellent course, but the last horse I sent there for the owner, Lord Zetland, was Beiderbecke. He fell at the first fence and broke his back."

MP seeks register for playing fields

By Derek Barnett, Parliamentary Staff

A call to the Government immediately to begin setting up a register of every piece of recreational playing space was made in a Commons adjournment debate by Kate Hoey, Labour MP for Vauxhall, when she voiced worries about what she called a "crisis" in sport and recreation, especially in London.

She was told by Colin Moynihan, Minister for Sport, that he hoped that bodies associated with sport and recreation would soon set up such a register themselves.

Miss Hoey, a former athlete and a physical education expert, and one-time education officer at Arsenal, asserted that the ever-increasing

Francisco shows resilience

By Steve Acteson

Silvino Francisco recovered from the brink of being 4-0 down against Warren King in their Mercantile Creek Classic snooker semi-final, to lead 5-3, in Blackpool yesterday. Francisco, of South Africa, had shown great resilience after King, of Australia, had led 3-0 but then resilience has had part of Francisco's make-up in recent years.

Since winning the British Open in 1985 his career and lifestyle have been blighted by a series of events. After beating Kirk Stevens, of Canada, in that final he later accused Stevens of being "as high as a kite" during it.

Later remarks made about Francisco on television by Rex Williams and John Virgo,

former chairmen of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), led to an out-of-court libel settlement for an undisclosed amount.

But at last season's Benson and Hedges Masters he was again embroiled in controversy when allegations were made of betting irregularities after he had lost 5-1 to Terry Griffiths.

The WPBSA and the Betting Offices Licensees' Association put the matter in the hands of the police but no evidence to substantiate the allegations has been found.

Yesterday, however, Francisco was able to concentrate purely on snooker, having slipped from tenth to

23rd in the world rankings.

King laced together a break of 72 to win the opening frame and then cleared with 40 for a 2-0 advantage. Francisco, needing three snookers on the green in the third frame, gained two and then four points when King sank the cue ball. But the frame eluded Francisco as it seemed would the fourth when King cleared to pink only to miss the black.

Francisco tucked it away to tie the scores at 43 points apiece and then sank a respite black for his first success. He won the next four frames to need one to reach the final.

RESULTS (England units stated): Semi-final: S. Francisco (SA) leads W. King (Aus) 5-3. Thursday's last quarter-final result: S. James vs W. Jones (Wales) 5-2.

Great Britons rally round Richmond

By a Special Correspondent

Professional skaters and coaches are to begin a campaign to save Britain's most famous ice rink. The Richmond Ice Rink Preservation Society, which meets for the first time today, will call on the support of Britain's greatest skaters, John Curry, Robin Cousins, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean.

The rink, which has been operating for 60 years, has produced many champions, notably Curry, the 1976 Olympic gold medal-winner. It also stages the biggest skating event in Britain, the Skate Electric UK International.

Richmond is home to 19 professional coaches, more than any other British ice rink, the Aldwych Speed Club and the Royal Skating Club, which is the oldest in the world. The skating fraternity was

aware that the old rink was to be demolished, but it had been assumed that a new one would be built to replace it.

Richmond Ice Rink is owned by the property developers, London and Edinburgh Trust (LET), who want to build 250 homes on the site.

Richmond-upon-Thames Borough Council, which is controlled by the Liberal Democrats, permitted LET to produce a plan which would allow this to go ahead, but only if LET built a new ice rink and recreational facility within the borough. By May last year LET had drawn up plans for a £22.5 million sports complex.

But the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club lies next to the proposed development site. The club part-owned the road leading to the site and refused to allow the developers to use it, thus blocking the scheme. In October a new agreement

was drawn up between the council and LET which gave the council until December 29 to solve this problem. The council could not do so, enabling LET to pay £2.5 million in compensation and build the 250 homes on the site of the old rink without building a replacement. It is estimated that the rink will be demolished within 18 months.

"We are losing a major sporting facility and part of our heritage," Duncan Crookford, the marketing manager of Richmond Ice Rink, said.

Tim Razzall, the deputy leader of Richmond council, said: "We would obviously have preferred the £22.5 million development, but we are pleased that we have secured the second-best alternative. £2.5 million in compensation." The council has been criticized by political oppo-

nents but Razzall said that LET was already trying to convene public inquiries so that it could go ahead and knock down the ice rink without any strings attached. "We were advised that we would lose the case. LET would have gone ahead and we would have received nothing," he said.

Peter Bradley, the spokesman for LET, said the developers were looking for other sites for the rink but not within Richmond. He said: "We are under no obligation to find a replacement, but it is saying something for LET that we are actively looking for one."

The threat to the rink prompted several personalities from the world of skating to comment. Courtney Jones, the president of the National Skating Association and former world ice dance champion, said: "It would be sad to see

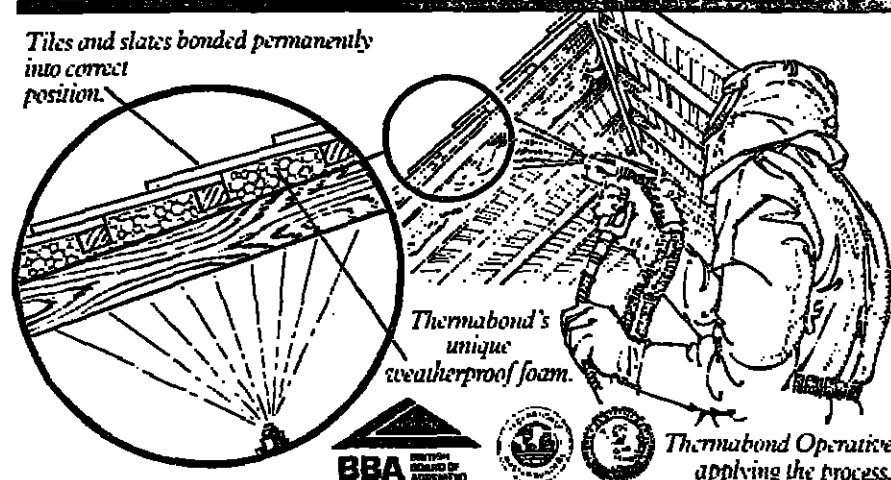
the Richmond rink disappear because it has been part of our skating heritage."

"So many champions, foreign as well as British, have come from Richmond through Arnold Gerschwiler, who trained John Curry before he went to the United States."

Betty Callaway, the trainer of Torvill and Dean, said: "Even foreigners are sad to hear it may close. I had the privilege of teaching Princess Anne there for three seasons and Prince Charles and Prince Andrew for shorter periods. It is something special, with so much history and tradition, an institution, really."

Roy Lee, who has been coaching at the rink for 37 years, and who is leading the attempt to save it, said: "I can understand this place coming down, but a new rink has got to be built in its place."

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CRICKET: HOSTS FIND RUNS HARD TO COME BY AS THE THREE-TEST SERIES AGAINST PAKISTAN BEGINS

Australians belie reputation and go for soft option

From John Woodcock, Melbourne

It is not only in England that the ball moves off the seam. It did so enough here yesterday, even in glorious weather, for Australia to find runs hard to come by when they and Pakistan began their three-Test series. After being put in, Australia scored 198 for six from 83 overs, and Pakistan dropped as many catches as they held.

The fact that Pakistan's two leg spinners were absentees - Qadir being on his way back to Pakistan and Mushtaq Ahmed having yet to arrive in Australia - made no difference. They were not needed.

On a pitch that was well grassed without being green, Pakistan's four faster bowlers were in their element, anyway until they tried towards the end, and when that happened Australia, to Pakistan's obvious relief, chose to end play for the day.

It is in the playing conditions here that if, at 6pm, 90 overs have not been bowled, the batting side decides whether or not to carry on until they have. When 6pm came yesterday, the sun still high in the sky, Pakistan, for the first time, were on the run, with Sleep and Healy, Australia's seventh-wicket pair, going well.

Had they been so minded, Australia could have had

another seven overs. Instead they hurried off. In other words, they did exactly what Englishmen are inclined to say: Australians would never do that.

Until those last few overs, when Sleep and Healy were wrestling the initiative, the ball had constantly beaten the bat. The older it became, the more it did so. With Taylor being dropped at second slip when he was two - a real percher to Miandad off Akram - and Marsh in the gully, it was, in fact, mid-afternoon before Australia lost a wicket, by when the score was 90.

Half an hour later, Australia were 98 for four, Boon and Jones both having been out first ball. Boon leg-before before playing no stroke to Akram and Jones caught at the wicket on the front foot to Imran.

Thus Akram and Imran each had the chance of a notable hat-trick. Having removed Marsh and Boon with successive balls, Akram, with his next ball, beat Border all ends up. Imran's would have comprised Taylor, who pulled a long top to mid-on, Jones and Waugh, and it was with difficulty that Waugh fended off his first ball.

With Jones's wicket, his 356th in Test cricket, Imran moved ahead of Lillee and into fourth place in the all-

time list. Now only Hadlee (396), Botham (376) and Kapil Dev (359) are ahead of him.

Had England used yesterday's conditions as well as Pakistan did, they would have been well pleased. Akram was excellent while Imran showed what he wanted from his two youngsters, Younis and Aaqib, with his probing line and length. Aaqib, who was said to be 16 when he was here last year, playing in the World Series Cup, and is now suddenly 19, had Waugh caught at the wicket in the same over as he had missed at slip.

When Border was caught at slip an hour after tea, Australia were 149 for six and in more trouble than they ever were in 1989. Of the runs made, a good 40 must have come to third man, where there was no one, most of them off thick edges.

There was little driving and no hooking, the pitch being too slow for one and the bowling not short enough for the other. The crowd (17,989) was critically low for the first day of a Melbourne Test. The teams are on strike - and by Monday, in all probability, the trains and the buses will be, too.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings
G R Marsh c Younis b Akram 30
A Taylor c Aaqib b Imran 52
D G Boon b Akram 24
A R Border c Miandad b Akram 94
D E Jones c Younis b Imran 20
S R Waugh c Younis b Aaqib 23
P R Sheel not out 23
H A Marsh not out 16
Extras (b 9, nb 7) 16
Total (8 wickets) 198
M G Hughes, C G Rackemann and T M Alderman to bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-90, 2-90, 3-98, 4-98, 5-131, 6-148
SCORING: Imran 15-6-36-2; Akram 25-8-54-2; Younis 17-1-36-0; Waugh 20-0-20-0; Taylor 1-1-25-0
PAKISTAN: Aamir Malik, Shoaib Mohammad, Mansoor Akram, Imran Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aaqib Javed.



Akram, Pakistan's opening bowler, chalks up the wicket of Border, the Australian captain

Sri Lankans save face

Adelaide (Reuters) - The Sri Lankans, with almost a month before the international fixture of their tour, managed to recover from the embarrassment of being bowled out for 103 on Thursday by the Australian Cricket Academy to draw the two-day match yesterday.

The Academy, who had an overnight score of 162 for four to 348, a lead of 245. White compiled an impressive 84 in 242 minutes, sharing a fifth-

wicket partnership of 115 in 126 minutes with Williams.

With the pitch playing more comfortably than it had the previous day, the Sri Lankans made 117 for one in their second innings before the captains agreed to end play an hour early.

SCORES: Sri Lanka 103 (B Ajantha 14; J Jayawardene 66 not out; P Gurusinha 66 not out; M Muralitharan 54; A W M Madursinghe 5 for 55; R Kalinga 4 for 47).

ATHLETICS

Regis is ready for that elusive gold

From David Powell, Athletics Correspondent, Sydney

John Regis once described himself as the world champion at 198m. In less than two years, he has become a world champion at 200 metres. In Rome in 1987, he conceded not only gold but silver as well.

If, like Pasarell, for his Wimbledon defeat by Gonzalez, and North Korea, for their World Cup capitulation against Portugal, Regis is not always to be remembered for glorious failure, he must gain gold from one of the big four championships.

In just over a fortnight's time, he will have his best chance. The Commonwealth Games, with no Americans, French or de Silva of Brazil to worry about, leave Regis with an outstanding opportunity for success. Even yesterday, having convinced his coach, Regis tomorrow sets about persuading the 10,000 spectators expected at the Sydney Athletic Field for the MBB Commonwealth Challenge.

The New South Wales AAA would have us believe that this will be another exercise in Australia flexing its sporting muscle on England. "For the first time in Australia," said yesterday, "we are going to roll them. And we feel we are going to roll them," Maurice Plant, their spokesman, said.

England, though, have not been goaded into taking the match seriously. John Jeffery, the team manager, said: "That's not the point of the meeting. The idea of coming here was to prepare for the Commonwealth Games. We didn't select a team; we talked to the athletes and asked them what they wanted to do for their build-up. Some have opted not to do their main event, others not to compete at all."

Regis, though, will be performing in his main event. "I'm hoping to be given a close race. Just to get a taste of distance again. I haven't run a 200 metres since the end of last season. I want reassurance that I feel comfortable at it," he said. The first British winner of a world indoor title, at Budapest last year, he knows the reality of what counts to the public. Like his cousin, Cyrille Regis, the Coventry City footballer, he has learned from the principle that "My worst race, the one I'm most proud of, is the one I've lost."

Regis has much to make up after his last Commonwealth Games - "My worst race, the one I'm most proud of, is the one I've lost." Four years ago in Edinburgh, he finished second to Ben Johnson who, at the Canadian drugs inquiry last year, admitted to taking steroids since the early 1980s. Christie flexes his muscles in the 100 metres tomorrow when he faces Tim Jackson, the young Australian of whom much is expected.

Fairfax Whitebread, who underwent a shoulder operation in May, has his first international javelin competition since the Seoul Olympics. If anyone is capable of challenging Whitebread and her British rival, Tess Sanderson, in Auckland, it will be Sue Howland, of Australia, who competes against the world champion tomorrow.

Tom McKean has withdrawn from the 800 metres, in which he was to have raced Sebastian Coe. A cold was the reason given, but nobody said whether it was head or feet. Either way, only the Kenyan, who are themselves, stand to gain from the breakdown of a match which would not so much have warmed them up for Auckland as made them oven fresh.

HOCKEY

Havant seek revenge for semi-final defeat

By Sydney Friskin

Havant, who were beaten 1-0 in the semi-finals of the National Cup by Burslem last season, have a chance to avenge that defeat when the teams meet tomorrow at Orpington in one of three postponed fifth-round matches.

Havant have beaten Bromley 4-0 in the national league this season but cup fervour has since stirred Bromley to nobler deeds, particularly in the third round, in which they defeated Slough 3-2, with Richards scoring all three of his side's goals from short corners.

Homeslow, who beat Bromley 2-1 in the cup final last season, can expect strong opposition at Slough, from Slough, whose main hope in attack is Imran Shariwar.

Homeslow will be without the Welsh international, Hecker, who has been suspended for 60 days by the club after receiving an adverse report on his conduct last Sunday at Swindon during

TENNIS

Lendl and Becker beaten

From Barry Wood, Sydney

"The other players who do well were played until Sunday, and then have only a day off before playing again in a more important event. That's very bad."

It was the first time Becker has been beaten by a West German since he began playing on the professional tour. Seeb, who is ranked a respectable 16th in the world, worked hard for his victory. His excellent lobs, and two crucial breaks by Becker in the tie-break, paved the way.

"He was making better shots on the important points. Seeb played a very good match. He didn't really make any easy mistakes, and I had to work hard on every point."

Noah is like a man reborn, inspired by his new coach. "I'm happy to have played two matches, but now I have three or four days' rest until the start of the Open."

Connell takes Chesnokov to edge of defeat

Auckland (Reuters) - The No. 1 seed, Andrei Chesnokov, of the Soviet Union, battled against strong winds to beat the Canadian, Grant Connell, in the quarter-finals of the \$150,000 (€90,000) New Zealand Open on Friday. Chesnokov meets the Israeli, Amos Mansdorf, in the semi-finals.

Connell, a left-hander, won the first set 6-2 against Chesnokov with brilliant attacking tennis. In the second set Connell chased every service and volley, and lead 3-1 with a break point for the fifth game.

Ramesh Krishnan, of India, beat Magnus Gustafsson, of Sweden, after the first set went to a tiebreak.

QUARTER-FINALS: A Mansdorf (I) 6-4, 6-3; Chesnokov (S) 6-4, 6-3; Gustafsson (S) 6-4, 6-3; Connell (C) 6-4, 6-3.

FISHING

Blue charm fly under siege

By Conrad Voss Bark

Those who know the blue charm as a good salmon fly in small and medium rivers to be used on many a Scottish river, especially in summer months, will resent some of the things now being done to it.

The blue charm was first tied around 1890, so that the dressing has lasted a couple of centuries more or less unchanged. A black strich hair butt has been dropped from time to time but that is about all.

One of the charms of the blue charm is the way the mallard wing is dominated on the upper half by a slip of teal, supplying a perfect contrast, a beautiful balance of colour and shape which has given anglers pleasure to salmon fishers for a couple of hundred years.

You would think that having achieved perfection, fly dressers would hesitate to mess about

with the wings of the blue charm? You would be wrong.

Now someone has come along, ignored the balance of teal over mallard and has substituted - I can hardly bring myself to say it - has substituted for that perfection a wing made from a bunch of hair taken from the tail of a squirrel.

That in itself is bad enough but would be excusable if this creation was given a completely different name, a hairwing squirrel tail or something of that kind, but the man responsible for this dressing still calls it a blue charm.

This is a deception, rather like attaching a Savile Row label to a cheap pair of blue jeans and calling them Savile Row trousers. The cheap trousers will no doubt wear well, but they are nothing to do with Savile Row - nor has a squirrel hairwing fly,

however efficient, anything to do with a blue charm.

This practice of using standard names for other flies is growing. The latest example of a hairwing so-called blue charm is in a small give-away booklet in a fishing magazine, which is claimed to be the copyright of E.M.A.P. Publishing of Farnborough. It would be a good idea to know how they can copyright a blue charm whose name does not belong to them.

Malaysian launch
Kuala Lumpur (AFP) - Malaysia has launched its bid to stage the 1998 Commonwealth Games. Hamzah Abu Samah, the president of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, says letters have been sent to all Commonwealth countries asking for their support.

SKIING

Bittner is still the one to beat

From Ray Robinson, Schladming

The fact that the men's World Cup slalom circuit has been relatively unaffected by the snow drought this season has enabled Armin Bittner, of West Germany, to maintain the form that brought him the World Cup title last year. Yesterday Bittner won his third slalom of the season on an artificial snow course here in Austria.

Bittner finished fourth on both runs but edged ahead of Michael Tritscher, the local favourite, by 0.06sec overall. It was the best finish of Tritscher's career while third place was shared by Conrad Ludaister, of Italy, and Tetsuya Okabe, of Japan.

With Ole-Christian Furuseth, of Norway, and Bernhard Gstrein, of Austria, retiring, Bittner moved to the top of the slalom World Cup standings. Firmin Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, finished tenth to lead the overall standings.

The only slalom events to be cancelled due to lack of snow have been those at Park City, Utah, and Madonna di Campiglio, Italy.

RESULTS: 1. A Bittner (WG) 1min 56.26sec; 2. M Tritscher (Austria) 1:56.32; 3. C Ludaister (I) 1:56.37; 4. T Okabe (J) 1:56.37; 5. P Furuseth (N) 1:56.72; 6. B Gstrein (A) 1:57.09; 7. P Zurbriggen (S) 1:57.97; 8. M Tritscher (S) 1:58.16; 9. C Ludaister (I) 1:58.76; 10. T Okabe (J) 1:59.75; 11. P Furuseth (N) 2:01.25; 12. J Picot (F) 2:01.25; 13. T Shew (US) 2:01.76; 14. M Tritscher (S) 2:01.76; 15. P Zurbriggen (S) 2:01.76; 16. T Shew (US) 2:01.76; 17. P Zurbriggen (S) 2:01.76; 18. T Shew (US) 2:01.76; 19. P Zurbriggen (S) 2:01.76; 20. T Shew (US) 2:01.76.

SEEDINGS: 1. J Lendl (C) 2. B Becker (WG) 3. S Edberg (S) 4. J McEnroe (US) 5. A Koolen (B) 6. M Matsuda (J) 7. E Sanchez (S) 8. M Matsuda (J) 9. A Koolen (B) 10. M Matsuda (J) 11. A Koolen (B) 12. Y Noth (F) 13. S Brugnera (A) 14. J Courier (US) 15. T Muster (A) 16. M Matsuda (J) 17. A Koolen (B) 18. M Matsuda (J) 19. A Koolen (B) 20. Y Noth (F) 21. S Brugnera (A) 22. J Courier (US) 23. T Muster (A) 24. M Matsuda (J) 25. A Koolen (B) 26. M Matsuda (J) 27. A Koolen (B) 28. Y Noth (F) 29. S Brugnera (A) 30. J Courier (US) 31. T Muster (A) 32. M Matsuda (J) 33. A Koolen (B) 34. M Matsuda (J) 35. A Koolen (B) 36. Y Noth (F) 37. S Brugnera (A) 38. J Courier (US) 39. T Muster (A) 40. M Matsuda (J) 41. A Koolen (B) 42. M Matsuda (J) 43. A Koolen (B) 44. Y Noth (F) 45. S Brugnera (A) 46. J Courier (US) 47. T Muster (A) 48. M Matsuda (J) 49. A Koolen (B) 50. M Matsuda (J) 51. A Koolen (B) 52. Y Noth (F) 53. S Brugnera (A) 54. J Courier (US) 55. T Muster (A) 56. M Matsuda (J) 57. 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40ers must

Wood in business brings quality to Harlequins backs

By David Hands

Antipodean artistry: Wood is happy here and aims to stay

"It would be nice if the players could take a break before all the internationals. We focussed their minds entirely on representing England while we were in Lanzarote. But now they have to turn their minds off all that and concentrate on league games. There is also the risk of injuries. Long term I think something will have to be sorted out."

"It could with benefit be set back three weeks," he said. "It has been discussed with the other unions and has received no support. France objected strongly and the other countries indicated a degree of apathy, but we all have different domestic structures."

Richard Hill, Bath's England scrum half, faces Bedford in a first division match today which

"It would be nice if the players could take a break before all the internationals. We focussed their minds entirely on representing England while we were in Lanzarote. But now they have to turn their minds off all that and concentrate on league games. There is also the risk of injuries. Long term I think something will have to be sorted out."

By Alan Lorimer

A head count of the respective supporters on either side of the Richmond stand (where the clubhouse windows, in fact, look out on to the second-team pitch) might be an instructive exercise.

TEAM: G Aitchison (Newcastle), A Parton (Loughborough), N Robison (UEA), J MacNaughton (Liverpool), I McLeod (Bristol), D Willett (Exeter), A Nickalls (Newcastle), G Beldwin (Loughborough), A N Othor, R Wareham (Loughborough, capt), C Moore (Salford), D Jones (Loughborough), I Pileup (Warwick), G Taylor, E Peters (both Loughborough).

By Peter Bills

"It could with benefit be set back three weeks," he said. "It has been discussed with the other unions and has received no support. France objected strongly and the other countries indicated a degree of apathy, but we all have different domestic structures."

Richard Hill, Bath's England scrum half, faces Bedford in a first division match today which

Cook sympathizes and says: "It would be nice if the players could take a break before all the internationals. We focussed their minds entirely on representing England while we were in Lanzarote. But now they have to turn their minds off all that and concentrate on league games. There is also the risk of injuries. Long term I think something will have to be sorted out."

RUGBY UNION

Barclays League

Charlton v A Villa

Ionians; Harrogate v Wigton; Otley v Halifax. Second division: Carlisle v Rutherford; New Brighton v Altrincham; West Park v Sandbach; Wharfedale v Lynn; Wigan v Rotherham. North West: First division: Cockermouth v Egremont; Middlesex College v Macclesfield; Rochdale v Cuddie; Sedgeley Park v Sandbach; Warral v Davenport. Second division: Blackburn v Morebly; Mersey Police v Northeth; Old Aldersley v Manchester; Warrington v Southport; Winstow v Worthington. North East: First division:

Aylesbury v Worcester, Bar
Birmingham Synthonia v

Coeswiler: Chiltern v Slough; Oxford Old
 Boys v Bloctley; Swangee and Wareham
 v Bracknell; Swindon v Aylesbury
 Wimbourne v Windsor. Cornwall and
 Devon: Bogan Park v Falmouth; Pen-
 zance-Newton v Bideford; Plymouth GS
 v Crediton. Somerset: Teignmouth
 Wadecroft Camels v Exeter Saracens.
 Cornwall: First division: Redruth Albion v
 Hayle; Saltash v Bodmin; St Austell
 v Bude; St Just v Helston; Vaux v Stithians.
 Devon: First division: Newton Abbot v
 Cullampton; Old Technicians v Ivybridge.
 Plymouth: Arman v Exmouth. Bath

UFC Cardiff v Ammanford
Pembroke; Bridgend v Port

boys v Brest; Tredworth v Widden OB.
 Somerset: First division: Oldfield v Hor-
 net; Old Sulfans v Bristol Harlequins; St
 Bernadettes v Gordano; Wiscot v
 Avonvale; Yeovil v Yatton. Berks: First
 division: Dorset and Wiltshire: First division:
 Chippenham v N Dorset; Corsham v
 Aldermaston; REME Airborne v Dor-
 chester; Sherborne v Devizes; Weymouth
 Woolton Bassett. Bedfordshire and
 Luton: First division: Grove v

am, 12-2 and 7.30-9.30
Football League AFC

FOOTBALL
SENIOR
 Boys' Basketball: **Champion:** Milton
 Lyons of Gloucester. **Runner-up:** Milton
 Lyons of Gloucester. **Coach:** Milton
 Lyons of Gloucester.
 Boys' Basketball: **Champion:** Milton
 Lyons of Gloucester. **Runner-up:** Milton
 Lyons of Gloucester. **Coach:** Milton
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 Boys' Basketball: **Champion:** Milton
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 Lyons of Gloucester. **Coach:** Milton
 Lyons of Gloucester.

Signer: Fife v Carditt. Book
from the Dewsbury Centre. I

HOCKEY
LENFIDDICH INTERNATIONAL IN-
DOOR TOURNAMENT: Kelvinhall, Glas-
gow, (10.30).
NATIONWIDE ANGIA CUP: First Round:
Cambridge City v Southsides (Coldhams
Common, Cambridge, 1.30); Stourport v
Dunlow (Ollon and West Warwickshire

ISLANDS: Club switches: Aldridge v Worcester; Bridgnorth v Leek; Coalville v Nuneaton; Loughborough Town; Milton Keynes v Nuneaton; Nottingham v Leek; Sutton Coldfield v Nuneaton; Worcester v Leek.

Match ticket/Eligibility

ICE HOCKEY

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Lurganville v Peterborough (6.30); Solihull Whitley (7.0). First division: Humberstone v Ossett (6.15); Lee Valley v Medway (6.30); Streatham v Cleveland (8.15); Ashford v Slough (6.30).

SMITH CUP: First round, second leg: Rusham v Ayr (6.30).

HOLISH LEAGUE: First division: ...

Decision v. Birmingham (S.15): Chelms-
ford v Oxford City (S.30).

By Robert Kirley

FIXTURES: Conference finale: Tomorrow: AFC: Cleveland Browns at Denver Broncos; NFC: LA Rams at San Francisco 49ers. Super Bowl XXIV: January 28: At Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans.

REGAL TROPHY: Flint: Wagon v. Hobbies

ASH RACKETS: Snowmont World
ing Masters Invitation (East
stead).

LE TENNIS: Cleveland Open.
maby Pavilion).

TRAVEL

Attitude, not altitude

European ski resorts have much to learn from America, where top-rate skiing is guaranteed, Brian James says

There were 36 inches of snow beneath the ski blades. The tops of ski boots were like the fins of speeding sharks just breaking the surface of the 10 inches of "champagne" powder fallen overnight. Every half-mile or so you needed to shake goggles free of the soft flakes still drifting down. Yet the sharpest memory of a superlative first day's skiing in Colorado is that of a sound: the thrumming roar of machines relentlessly making snow.

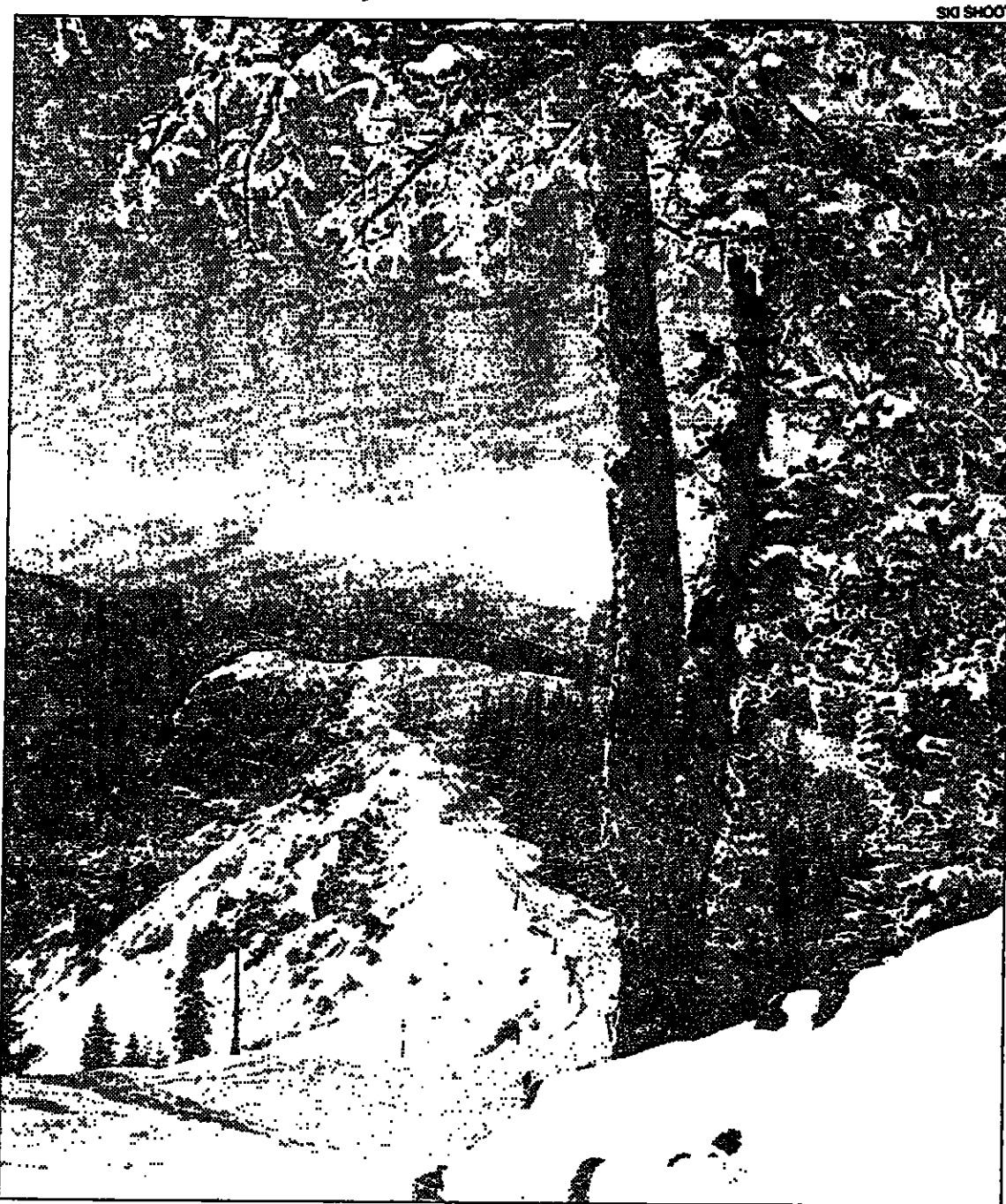
Ed Bowers, speaking for the Copper Mountain resort, explains: "Sure, the skiing is great today. But we still don't have a base right up to here," gesturing chest-high. "So if we get a little freak weather, or all the New Year crowds decide to turn on the same spot, we might get the mountain showing through. Can't let it happen. These machines have been going since September. That way, no matter what nature does, we open the day we say, the day the hotels and restaurants are ready."

"That way no one comes here and goes back to Des Moines or wherever," says Bowers. "Colorado? Well, place but the skiing was lousy! That way we will ski on snow piled high up to the last hour of the last day of the season in late April. It's what you need to do if you are in the ski business."

That same phrase had been used in Keystone, two days before. A dozen of us were on top of a mountain at 10pm, preparing to ski the three miles back to the village on the world's longest floodlit run. But it was 18° below freezing, and surely the piste would be one long icy rut?

"No way," the Keystone spokesman said. "Since dark fall we have constantly regroomed the surface. Sure, maybe only two dozen of you want to go. But we advertise night skiing as a feature — so making it happen is what you do if you are in the ski business."

Many European ski-resort directors will have spent the first month of the season gazing in suicidal depression on to green-brown mountains for the third or fourth consecutive snow-scarce year. What they should have been doing is flying to America, where the future is being shaped.



Powder charge: Aspen, Colorado, where the learning is made easy and you can choose your own degree of fright

The provision of that artificial snow, expensive insurance against disillusionment for skiers and bankruptcy for resorts, is a crucial example of the change: Vail, America's top resort, averages more than 26ft of snow each winter, yet this year has extended snow-making to cover one-tenth of its vast piste acreage; Copper Mountain has more than a quarter of its piste exposed to machine-made snow; Breckenridge, far from resting on the laurels of its sixth record-breaking year in succession, has increased its capacity to stand in for wilful nature.

All this contrasts with two years in Europe when I spotted only a handful of machines in use. Of course, some European resorts do think more expansively, and the

Colorado stations have the advantage in altitude denied many Swiss and Austrian rivals. But the central point is about attitude, not altitude. I have enjoyed many fine skiing holidays in Europe without ever quite losing the sense that some degree of labour and pain, humiliation and inconvenience was heaped upon high financial cost, and seen as the rightful price for the pleasure. One especially pompous Austrian even said as much: "Learning to ski must not be easy. You have to deserve the mountains."

Colorado could not disagree more. In our party were five beginners. At the end of the second day, three skied their first three-mile run. By the end of the week, all were coming down an intermediate run with their skis virtually parallel.

This was accomplished without a moment of misery.

● Boot-fitting: we all know the ordeal of hopping on one foot in a crowded rental store, while surly locals insist ski boots are meant to pinch at first. In Breckenridge one trod a carpeted dais while courteous young men, working in a sunken well at your ankle-height, measured and fitted the boots and demonstrated the buckling.

● Ski-classes: I watched our beginners, warming to friendly and articulate explanations, all doing different exercises which somehow brought them to the same point of expertise. "You encourage what they do best rather than nag about what they do wrong," was the teaching philosophy.

● Ski-lifts: drags, especially T-bars

IN EUROPE

● Snow drought in the Alps continues, and the outlook is sun till Tuesday at least. Lech/Zürs, Kitzbühel and Ischgl in Austria, which got new snow last Saturday, have some of the best skiing available. Montgenèvre and Serre-Chevalier in the southern French Alps are also enjoying better than average conditions. Faced with hundreds of layoffs, the French instructors' union is trying to have British ski teachers banned in Saïses and Les Menuires if they hold only UK qualifications.

(T as in Terrifying), are virtually unknown. You travel mostly by chair, with more cheerful young men assisting novices. Signboards saying "Tips up... place skis down... stand up... lean forward now" ensure you dismount with a gentle slither on to safe ground. Contrast this with the flag-end sucking Gaul who snarls when you fail to grasp the T-bar pole he stings at you, or fails to break up the icy patch on the arrival pad.

● The pistes: signposted and groomed. When novices go off on a green (simple) run you know it will be consistent; none of the sudden pitches of steep moguls or iceed-up gullies that account for many first-timers bursting into tears and determining never to try again. Hot-doggers on terror runs through these "Slow Ski" zones face \$300 fines.

I must not suggest Colorado skiing is so sanitized as to defy any sense of adventure. The back bowls of every resort I visited offer "double-black" runs of such sensational aspect as to encourage morbid thought. The point is that you choose your own degree of fright: a cruise or moguls, a fast blast or some careful powder picking.

I do not paint Colorado as paradise. The lack of good mountain food is an irritant. A few of the chairs are slow and ancient. But as a place to learn and then improve it is in so high a class as to encourage a perverse pity for the newcomers in our group: where are they ever going to find such sport again? Unless they go back. Or unless the Old World of skiing accepts it has much to learn from the New.

TRAVEL NOTES

● British Airways' Poundstretcher offers skiing holidays to Vail, Breckenridge, Keystone and Copper Mountain. Prices, including flights, transfers and accommodation from £399 (based on six adults sharing a two-bedroom apartment at Keystone in April).

● One week's skiing at Keystone and Breckenridge is reduced to £299 for departures in January (two adults sharing). Departures on February 3 and 10 are reduced to £399. Reservations (0293 548822).

Easy, if you know the ropes

Doug Sager enjoys being pampered on the slopes of Vail and Beaver Creek

Never tried skiing in the United States? Though born there I never had either, until this fourth dreadful winter of no snow in the Alps. Jumping in at the deep end, I took Europe's most extensive American ski-package operator, Ski the American Dream, to the biggest single mountain in the country, Vail. Even Vail, it seems, isn't big enough for its owner, Vail Associates. It has developed a nearby mountain, Beaver Creek, into an even more user-friendly network of mostly intermediate trails.

Sharing the same ski school and lift pass, Beaver Creek seems to be aiming for a somewhat higher tone than Vail, with smaller, swankier shops, homogeneous architecture and a security perimeter.

Experienced European skiers are not likely to be blown away by the skiing at Vail or Beaver Creek. But there's

Ski down from Vail to the hotel door and just leave your skis for the doorman

plenty of right-of-ways skiing at Vail, and challenging steep slopes along the Beaver Creek boundary on the Birds of Prey slopes.

But what the folks at Vail do best is make skiing easy for everybody. I searched all over Vail in vain for lift queues, poorly marked trails, ice, rocks and protruding obstacles on the pistes — until I felt downright homesick for the Alps.

Veterans of European ski *sauvage* will have to learn new manners. I finally figured out that the plethora of tissue dispensers mounted at every high-speed chairlift were perhaps a hint not to wipe your nose on the sleeve of your Gortex ski jacket.

To get Americans agitated, it seems, you have to ski under a warning rope. Separated from a pristine slope, my British partner and I slipped under an innocuous-looking rope and whipped up a few turns in the powder, before a hail of accusations and inventive from the chairlift above stopped us in our tracks.

Stealing a few lines in the powder at Vail, we learnt, is to invite confrontation with the local sheriff, the Colorado

State Police and federal park rangers, not to mention the Vail ski patrol. Under Colorado law, access to the off-piste, or backcountry skiing, is limited to exits from Vail resort boundaries through specified gates.

Vail has also recently introduced specially patrolled go-slow areas to reduce high-speed collisions. Skiers in a hurry may lose their lift passes. And you won't be allowed to board a ski lift wearing a personal stereo.

To the European, used to considering skiing as a contact sport, Vail's strictures may smack of nannying. In fact, it's all part of cosseting the customer. Beaver Creek has created special Wild West attractions on screened runs where children are protected from the speed freaks. Other pistes are reserved for slow skiers and for families wanting to ski together.

Serious skiers will appreciate Vail's

extensive network of high-speed quad chairlifts. In terms of vertical feet skied per week, the high-speed chairs, fall-line pistes and grooming to allow low fast cruising contribute to give the ambitious skier far more skiing per holiday than he would find anywhere in the Alps.

If "holiday" is the operative word in your skiing, Vail and Beaver Creek will slam the door forever on bookings of European "chalet parties". I took a stretch Cadillac, part of the Ski the American Dream package, from Deaver airport straight to the Vail Westin Hotel, with its outdoor hot tubs, cinema-sized colour televisions and ski valet service (ski down from Vail on Westin's own piste to the hotel door and just leave your skis for the doorman). Similarly, at the Hyatt Regency in Beaver Creek, the ski valet warms your boots overnight.

TRAVEL NOTES

● Ski the American Dream weeks in Vail and Beaver Creek from £425 (4 Station Chambers, High Street North, London E8 1UD, 01-552 1201).

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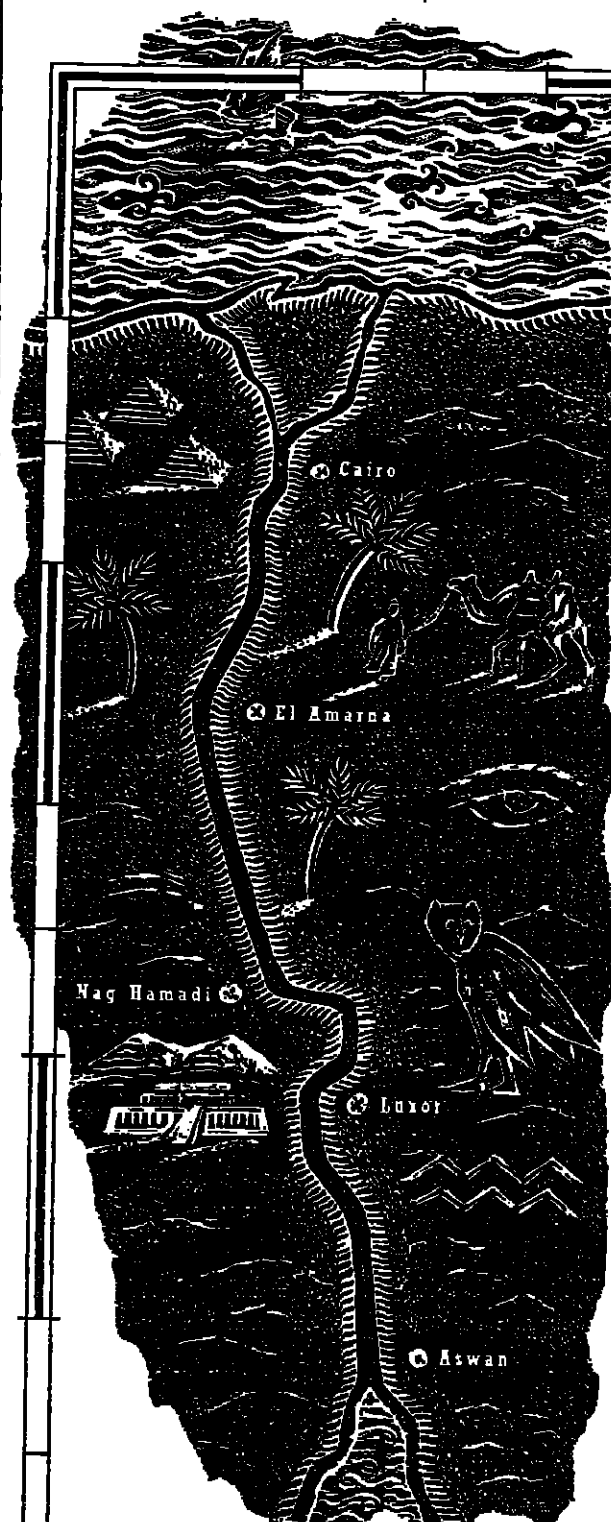


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TRAVEL

Sights to the death

How much longer can tourism despoil the places it exists to celebrate? Russell Chamberlin reports

In 1971, while Spain was pouring concrete along its coastline, a speaker at a conference of tourism workers sounded a note of warning. "The development of tourism in Spain has destroyed one of the most splendid coasts in Europe. The destruction of the environment by selling sun on the cheap is beyond repair." As the speaker was on the town planning staff of Leicester in the United Kingdom, the Spanish authorities may well have concluded that it was a classic example of sour grapes, and went on blithely pouring concrete.

By the end of the decade the horrors of the Spanish "Costa" had entered holiday folklore. A British advertising agency even used those horrors to push a brand of beer. The television advertisement showed a beer-bellied Brit in a building site, surrounded by half-finished concrete buildings, his feet near a pool of filthy water — but, nevertheless, extolling the hideous place because it was possible to get his favourite brand of warmish British beer.

In 1989 the Economist Intelligence Unit sounded what may well be the death-knell of an era. "Resorts based on mass, down-market tourism are starting to look at the costs of having their resorts disfigured by low-yield tourism. In some cases, the decision to go up-market is likely." The unit must have had an eye on Spain, for in that same year Spanish income from tourism was down. Going up-market, the tourist ministry has begun to develop sites in the interior — inevitably clashing with conservationists.

The unfortunate Spanish experience is invariably cited as an illustration of the effects of mass tourism. But, in case the more sophisticated resorts are tempted to smugness, it is worthwhile looking at the other end of the market. Today there are annually

more than a million visitors to the Temple of Zeus in Olympia, compared to the hundred or so before the Second World War: more stone has been worn away, by millions of pairs of tourists' feet, in the past generation than in the previous 2,000 years.

In France, the Lascaux Caves are closed to the public — not because of vandalism, but simply because the exhaled breath of thousands of visitors was damaging the irreplaceable paintings. In the Nile Valley, warnings were given early last year that at the present rate of deterioration — caused as much by tourist pressure as by pollution — monuments that have endured 4,000 years will have disappeared within 50. In Australia, as early as 1976, the Australian Heritage Commission announced that they would no longer publish specific details of Aboriginal sites in danger, because publication would only attract more sightseers and increase that danger.

The tourist industry is replete with statistics, but drawn from so many different sources and expressed in so many different modes that it is difficult to get an overall picture. Two factors, however, emerge with consistent clarity: the relentlessly increasing number of world tourists (about 50 million in 1980; 400 million in 1988; 600 million projected for 2001) and the shift away from such "traditional" centres as the Mediterranean to the so-called Third World.

At about the time that Spain began to consider altering its pattern, Turkey fell to the lure of low-yield mass tourism, more than doubling its numbers to 2.5 million over five years. Inevitably the horror stories have begun to emerge from the country: villagers

aggressively demanding fees to have their photos taken, traditional cafes belting out Western pop, hamburgers and chips ousting local food. In Bangladesh, a canny publicist has authorized a tourist poster with the slogan, "Come to Bangladesh before the tourists come".

It is this explosion of the "pleasure periphery" which is currently causing the most heart-searching and head-scratching among the concerned. The Penang Consumers' Association has published a book entitled *See the Third World — While It Lasts*, which launches a blistering attack on the cherished idea that mass tourism, for all its faults, brings cultural and financial benefits to under-developed countries. Cultural? The association reproduces an advertisement from the local Tanjong Aru Beach Hotel, which proudly offers "Shakespearean pub lunches" ("Shakespeare wrote marvellous plays in the afternoon after a satisfying lunch. Naturally, his favourite repast was served in the local pub, among his cronies").

Financial? The association points out that anything up to 40 per cent of investment in tourism "leaks back" to the developed countries, not only because more and more tourist hotels are owned by international consortiums, but because the hi-tech equipment needed to run those hotels can come only from developed countries.

One thing we know for certain is that tourism is going to go on increasing. Currently tourism provides 5.7 per cent of the world's payroll, with 6.3 per cent of all jobs. Even the United States ranks tourism among its top two or three

industries. In Britain, tourism provides more than a million jobs; in southern Europe, 14.4 per cent of jobs are connected with tourism.

Financially, tourism is one of the most painless ways of transferring money from richer to poorer regions. Culturally, it is the only industry which can preserve and even revive otherwise moribund artefacts and customs.

So tourism is here to stay. And it's vital. But it has to be controlled. The question is how?

One answer is by elitism. Or, to use the currently respectable term, by "ecological" tourism.

Recently the World Bank and Unesco jointly published a collection of papers which cautiously addressed itself to the problem, titled "Tourism: Passport to Development?". One of the papers discussed the development of an island "of indescribable beauty", which for most people is an "island paradise", attracting more than half a million tourists a year... Bali. Despite this enormous pressure, the investigators reported that "the Balinese have responded to the opportunities tourism presents with a resilience that amazes even the most casual observer". Two reasons were adduced for this: their "customary strong ties" with their village communities — and the fact that tourist routes were well defined. In other words, the great mass of tourists were kept away from heartlands.

Elitism is already being practised, overtly or otherwise. In Britain, the Lake District is virtually closed to the casual traveller during the peak season. During the high season in Polperro, Cornwall, (where tourists outnumber residents in August) parking places are provided for res-

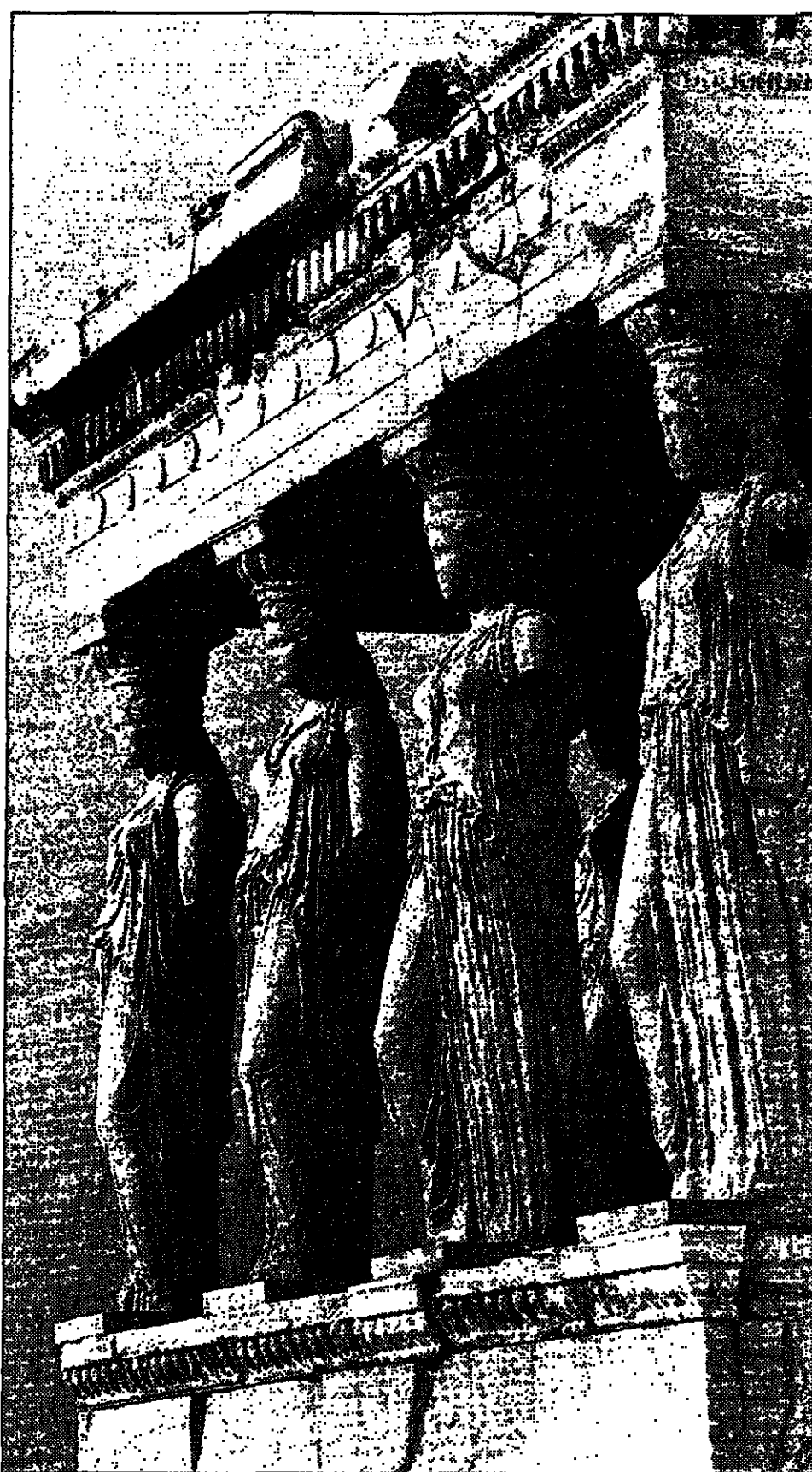
idents, but not for visitors. Norway says bleakly that you can go into the national parks if you must, but only if you obey the tough rules. Taormina, in Sicily, is openly going up-market. "There is only one person that is the right visitor for Sicily. This is the professional person with an interest in the classics, in history, in civilizations."

The price mechanism is the most obvious means of control. Most non-manufactured tourist attractions are absurdly under-priced. Entry fee to the Giza Plateau, which includes access to the Sphinx and the three great pyramids, is the equivalent of 75p.

Realistic pricing of monuments and protected sites would partially restore that degree of protection through inaccessibility that has been eroded by mass air transport. Linked to that would be a system of qualified access, such as the British have perfected for most of the "stately homes" now owned by the National Trust.

Another alternative to relieve pressure is the creation of "clones" of venerable monuments. This is not as bizarre as it may seem. The maidens on the Acropolis are copied — the originals are in a museum. The French government has created a replica of the Lascaux Caves, so perfect as to fool the unwary. In England, English Heritage planned, at one stage, to create a replica of Stonehenge some distance away to save pressure on the original. In Florida's Disney World is the ultimate — faithful copies of famous city-scapes, including the waterfront of Venice.

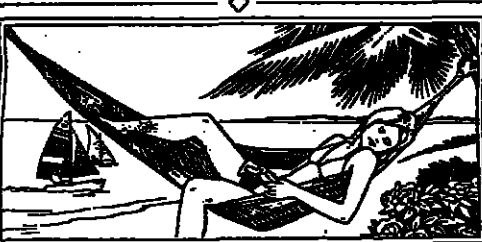
The alternative as the numbers of tourists increase is a linked acceleration in the deterioration of the great sites of the world, with the Venetian lagoons turned into a vast latrine, the streets of Ephesus ground into dust and the granite of the Great Pyramid succumbing to the pressure of mass tourism.



Convincing fakes: the original maidens on the Acropolis are kept out of harm's way in a museum

Spouting poetry of the sea

Nancy Lee Patton joins a boatload of whalewatchers among the humpbacks and minke off the Cape Cod coast



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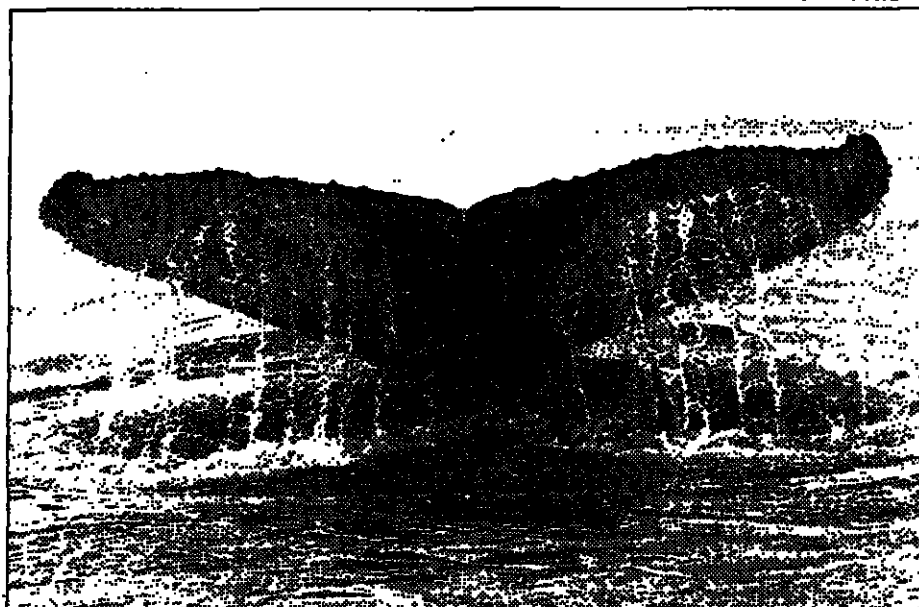
Provincetown inhabits the furthest curling tip of Cape Cod, on the New England coast. For more than a century P-town, as the locals call it, was the third largest whaling port in the world, sending crews and ships out to butcher whales in every sea on the planet. Today the traffic is reversed. Whale-happy tourists, more than 300,000 of them this year, travel from as far away as Japan to see the whales. They are rarely disappointed.

Shallow, gravelly Stellwagen Bank provides a swirling, warm-water lair for whales. They summer in this agreeable spot, then migrate south to their winter breeding grounds; and their seasonal residence coincides with Cape Cod's tourist season.

After a breezy half-hour, Capt Joe Bones cuts the engine and we prowl into the Stellwagen area, which looks more like a bird sanctuary than a whale haven. Gulls and gannets fly, float and dive around us. Suddenly, off the bow, three humpback whales, a mother and calf and an unidentified third, rise to

the surface. The captain approaches gently, but they seem undisturbed. We get close enough to watch their spouts open and close as they breathe and hear the hiss as they spout. Barnacles cling to their

(hence the name), lift their huge tails into the air to a barrage of camera clicks, and slowly, majestically disappear beneath the waves. The crowd sighs with contentment. "We get a lot of people who



Telling tale: "If you see a whale, it touches your heart", as visitors to Cape Cod discover

skin and their white flippers glow green under the water. We can see about 20 feet of their shining backs, and have an awed sense of the massive bodies below the surface. One by one, they arch their backs

come to the Cape for a week's vacation and go whale-watching once or twice every day," says Suzanne Carter, the owner of our boat, Portuguese Princess. "They just fall in love with the whales." For-

merly a registered nurse, Carter founded her whale-watching business six years ago. "We've found that if you just read about whales being killed, you're not personally involved," she says, "but if you see a whale, it touches your heart."

The three whales surface, this time on the port side, causing a stampede to that railing, where the shutters snap again. The whales dive and surface a dozen times before we move on. On all sides, we see dozens of dolphin-sized minke whales and four enormous, shy fin whales, passing us with ease.

For an hour our boat is captivated by a humpback that dives, swims under the boat, and rolls on its side, waving a fin at us as long as a canoe. Twice it dives and blows rings of bubbles. The afternoon passes quickly.

On the way back we sip our Black Russians out of biodegradable cups, as the sun glows in the haze.

For a general information pack send £1 to the New England Tourist Board, The Business Village, Broomhill Road, London SW18 4JQ.

TRAVEL NEWS

Vanity-publishing is nothing new, but vanity-travelling may be. For about £4,000 a head, 16 travellers can take the train from London to Hong Kong and feature in the book of the ride. Author of the ride is Eric Lane, barrister, novelist and writer of guide books. Enquiries to his publisher, Dedalus (0487 832382).

● Air Miles, the travel voucher collection scheme, now includes packages to New York, Paris and Amsterdam. Details of the new Options programme from travel agents or directly (0293 513633).

● Early birds, who get the best holiday jobs, will be first in the queue for new editions of Vacation Work's annual working holiday guides to be published on Monday. These are *The Directory of Summer Jobs in Britain* (£5.95), *The Directory of Summer Jobs Abroad*

(£5.95), *The Summer Employment Directory of the United States* (£8.95), *Vacation Internships for Students* (£5.95), *Internships USA* (£14.95), and *Kibbutz Volunteer* (£7.95). *Working Holidays 1990*, published by the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges (£6.95) is out now.

● Hotels with vineyards are featured in the coyly named *VINEscapes* from Allez

France (0903 744278). No matter, the selection of accommodation, from auberge to chateau-hotel in Champagne country, is excellent. These are bespoke packages, tailored to fit the tastes of wine-lovers who shy away from conducted tastings and tours. From £80 per person.

Shona Crawford Poole
Travel Editor

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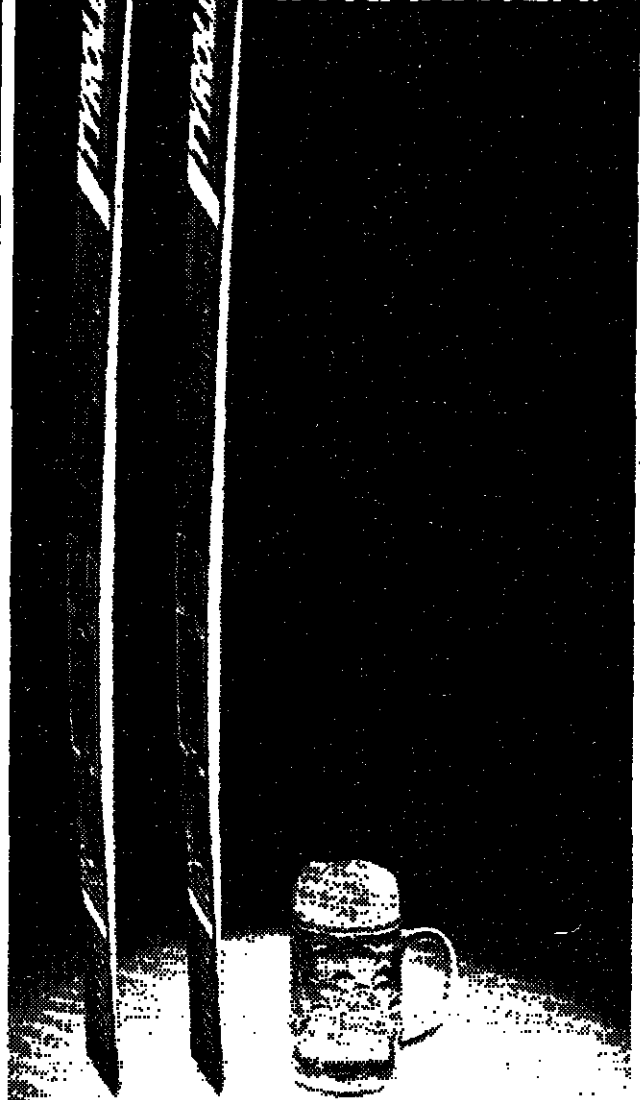
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TRAVEL

Hazy days for the bone idle

Take Menorca, add a villa with pool and don't stir: a mix guaranteed to satisfy most family holiday demands, Sally Baker writes

The blonde villa rep had a Mancunian accent undimmed by 11 years' residence in Menorca. She extolled the delights of various restaurants, showed us how to light the hostile Calor gas cooker, circled some recommended beaches on the map, and asked for questions.

I cleared my throat nervously. Had there been any sightings of, um, British lager louts on the island yet? She snorted. A noisy bunch of lads had indeed turned up at a newish seaside development, but as the week wore on and they failed to find any discos, pubs or other outlets for their exuberance, they became docile,

built sand-castles on the beach with the children, and went home quietly when their time was up. They were, she said, rather sweet. Menorca's swollen summer population is about equally split between British and Spanish holidaymakers, with apparent good cheer on all sides. The former have, of course, made their mark — on the harbour front in the capital, Mahón, the faded baroque splendour of "La Electrica Mahonesa, año 1893" now houses Pedro's Boat Centre, just along from the Mad Hatter Tea Rooms, while next door at the Xoriguer Gin Distillery the guided tours "with free tastings" were going well. But in the dozen or more

busy restaurants which line the pretty quay at Villa Carlos near Mahón, the holidaymakers tucking into the calamares or paella were just as likely to be Spanish. Most of the visitors stay in the low-rise and acceptably low-key "urbanizations" dotted around the coast, usually dazzlingly white-washed villa and apartment complexes clustered around the largest, sandiest beaches, where you can nurse an ice-cold San Miguel in the shade of the beach bar, marvel at the absence of loud music, thrill to the relentless efforts of novice sail-boarders to stay out of the water for more than three seconds while not decapitating the children swimming at their



feet, and keep a proprietorial eye on the M & S beach towels staking out your patch of sand — or are those somebody else's M & S beach towels? No matter. There is little crime here.

There are, however, a lot of

bodies on these beaches in high season. Far quieter are the myriad coves and inlets away from the "urbanizations", some accessible by bumpy track, some destined to be the exclusive preserve of the young, fit and intrepid. I had not seen the Mediterranean for some years and feared the polluted worst, but apart from a nostril-wrinkling whiff and a shoal of brightly-coloured plastic bags moving gently in the shallows on one north-coast beach, it was as warm, clear and inviting as ever.

Not that we accepted its invitation often, since our villa compensated for the gas cooker with its own pool. This is from now on a *sine qua non* of holiday happi-

ness. We were in that pool before breakfast, after breakfast, before lunch, after lunch, and often after dinner too, the lure of its cool, floodlit depths and the thrill of a midnight swim overcoming every Englishwoman's proper terror of mosquitoes. (One of our party even took his gin and tonic into the pool to escape the midday sun, but slipped and spilt it, and we had to organize relays of divers to retrieve the lemon slice from the bottom. Such a trial.)

All was not frivolity. We conducted serious scientific research into sweating: you don't, provided a tiny part of you is in contact with water — for example, afloat on an airbed with one foot over the side. I took the experiment on to dry land with some success, lying on the pool surrounded with a finger over the edge, but it was a lot less comfortable and the children kept pushing me in.

There is scope on Menorca for more such scholarly pursuits, since the island boasts no less than three kinds of megalithic monument. One kind looks like a large heap of old stones and begins with N, the others look a bit different and begin with T. One day we thought we saw one of the N types from the car en route for the beach, although it could have been a large heap of old stones, and no one showed much enthusiasm for wasting valuable swimming time to find out.

I'm afraid we were not very good scholars. We did grind in second gear up the road to the highest point on the island, Monte Toro, to admire the view and visit the monastery. Another day we went to Ciutadella, the old capital

on the coast at the western end of the island, and wandered through its maze of narrow golden lanes, finishing up at a chic marina-side bar where we observed the everyday story of yachting folk unfold.

But it was a lot of effort for the congenitally lazy and mostly we left the roads to others and stayed put on one of the finest sites on the island. Our villa at S'Albufera, near the village of Es Grau, was one of 65 built over the past 15 years on a hilly, wooded site earmarked for 1,000, before the Menorquin government was alerted to the rich birdlife of the nearby saltwater lake and declared it a nature reserve.

Our nearest neighbours were barely visible through the heat haze. So we dozed in the peaceful shade, listening to the cicadas, watching the lizards dart in and out of the bougainvillea, tracking yellow butterflies from the hibiscus to the oleanders and back again, training our pet black beetle, and wondering if it was raining at home.

TRAVEL NOTES

- Meon Villa Holidays (Meon House, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 3JN, 0730 68411) offers packages to a collection of star-rated villas in Menorca, most with a private swimming pool.
- A four-seater hire car is included in the price of all Meon's Menorca villas, but petrol stations are few and far between.
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TRAVEL

Carnival: a rite good time

PHOTOGRAPHS: MAURITIUS BILDAGENTUR / CLAUDE C. MEYER



*Sophisticated masks in Venice, dazzling costumes in Rio . . . Behind every carnival there is an ancient rite to celebrate, Hilary Finch reports

To every thing there is a season; man has mapped out exactly when he thinks he should plant and pluck up, break down and build up, mourn and dance. And he has developed rites to complement the seasons. In Greece, man identified with the gods in the Bacchanale. In Rome's Lupercalia, the good she-wolf was fêted by the annual release of prisoners. But it was when the rites of paganism and Christianity collided that the real fun started. Carnival was born.

I have it on good authority that in the 7th century the Abbess of Poitiers took it into her head to organize lewd masques: the clergy were admitted only if they wore drag. In the 10th century, the Pope himself took part in an animated procession through Milan in which the sacristan

wore goat horns and the curate was mounted on a donkey.

The reign of this particular Lord of Misrule was ended by Pope Innocent III, who felt obliged to live up to his name. But the Renaissance in Italy ensured that Carnival was not only reborn but properly christened too. Whether the word comes from the *carus navale*, the annual junketings on board 14th-century Venetian ships, or simply from *carne-vale* ("goodbye to meat"), it was Venice which clinched the matter.

It just so happened that the Doge won an important military battle just before Lent in 1162, and a long and complex ceremony was staged in St Mark's Square from Thursday until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Today, the Venetian carnival is the most sophisticated of them all. No-

where is the use of the mask more evocative of the illusion at the carnival's heart than the hooded black mantle of the *Bauta*. Fertilized by the *commedia dell'arte*, and nourished by the Art Biennale and events at the Venice, *Carnevale* reigns supreme.

Or does it? From south and west, the echoes of a haunting song challenge its supremacy: "A vida e um sonho, E o sonho ilusão". For the *sambista* of Brazil, life is but a dream, and the dream a mirage. For the slum-dweller of Rio, the spring Carnival is "a mission, a mandate, a supreme moment of deliverance and self-sufficiency". The highly organized and competitive *escolas de samba*, which rule the streets of Rio from Sunday night to midday on Monday, bear the alchemy of African black magic and Portuguese Catholicism. Such is

the complexity now of this massive pageant in which the beggar is king and the king a mere bystander, that, five years ago, a huge grandstand called the *sambódromo* was opened to seat 60,000 spectators. But it is well worth getting there a week early for the rehearsals. And don't just stay on the Avenida Presidente Vargas: visit the tributary processions on the Avenida Rio Branco, and across the bay at Niterói where the smaller *escolas* offer more spontaneous entertainment.

Such was the potency of the Lord of Misrule in Spain that Franco banned Carnival; it was restored only a decade ago. Long dormant, the volcano of regional celebrations has now erupted with force. Barcelona focuses on political satire; Murcia on the Burial of the Sardine. At Solsona in Lérida, the marriage of the Crazy Giant is solemnized, his cake cut and distributed, his castle of fireworks burned. Salamanca goes in for bull-fights, Cadiz competitions for singers and comedians.

Greece eats its last pre-Lent meat on *Tsiknopempti*, or "smelly Thursday". In the north of the country, on January 8, the women take charge of the coffee shops, play cards and drink ouzo. Patras, on the Peloponnese, has its battle of the chocolates.

Cologne prefers car-nels; and whether you are making them, eating them, or throwing them, involvement is all. Kölner say that "if you were at the procession and saw the procession, then you weren't at the procession".

Carnival week here grows stronger and more colourful every year: on Thursday 6,000 women shove the mayor out of his office and snip off every tie in sight; on Sunday, school-children parade on 70 floats; and on Rose Monday, the very apotheosis of Carnival in northern Europe, a procession of three hours and six miles long forces hundreds of more sober citizens to leave the country as carnival refugees.

In Vienna, Carnival has been groomed into the Ball. On Wednesday, January 31, the Ball of the Kaffee-Haus owners sets the pace for the Openball on Thursday and the grand Hofburg Masked Ball on Friday.

North, south, east and west meet and turn in the kaleidoscope of Flemish, French and German culture which is Bel-

gian Carnival. In Flemish Alost, the procession ends in a battle of onions; in Wallon Malmédy, the mayor yields power to the *Trouvair* in his red silk and top hat; in German-speaking Eupen, soc-

ieties of *Kappensitzungen*, in their brightly coloured caps, prepare for Rose Monday as early as November.

Julio Caro Baroja, the Spanish anthropologist, wrote that there were only two things that

would ever kill Carnival: secularization and bureaucracy. Intourist and the embassies of the Soviet bloc countries have so far denied the existence of Carnival. But behind their backs, the fire-

men of Czechoslovakia stage noisy balls, the masked men of the *Busójárás* at Mohács in Hungary parade in their thick fur coats, and the red and white bells of spring still ring across the fields of Moldavia.

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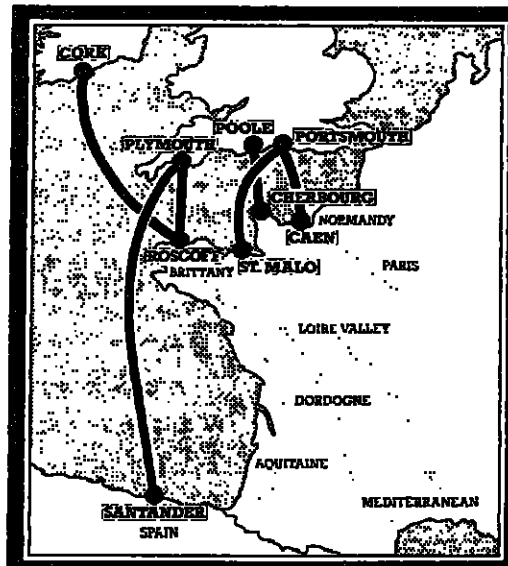
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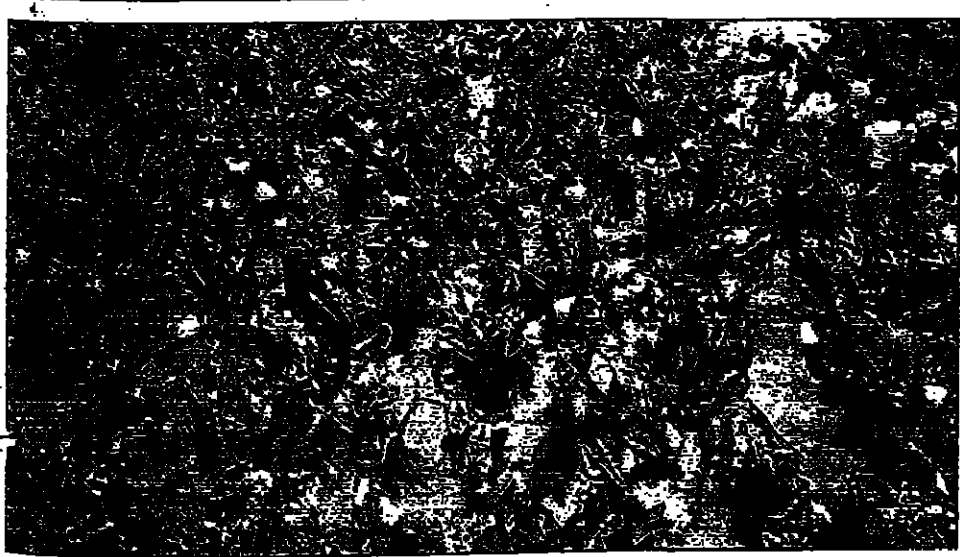
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TRAVEL NOTES

For information about carnival details and accommodation, contact the national tourist offices.

Reading suggestions: *El Carnaval*, by Julio Caro Baroja, Taurus, Madrid 1965 *Escolas de Samba*, by Luis Gardel, Rio de Janeiro 1967 *Cologne Carnival*, by Bruno Melcher (from Festkomitee des Kölner Karnevals, Antwerpener Strasse 55, D-5000 Köln 1) *Venetian Carnival*, by Fulvio Reiter, Edizioni Zeri, Venice, 1987.



Swirling Rio: for the massed *sambista*, Carnival is "a supreme moment of self-sufficiency"

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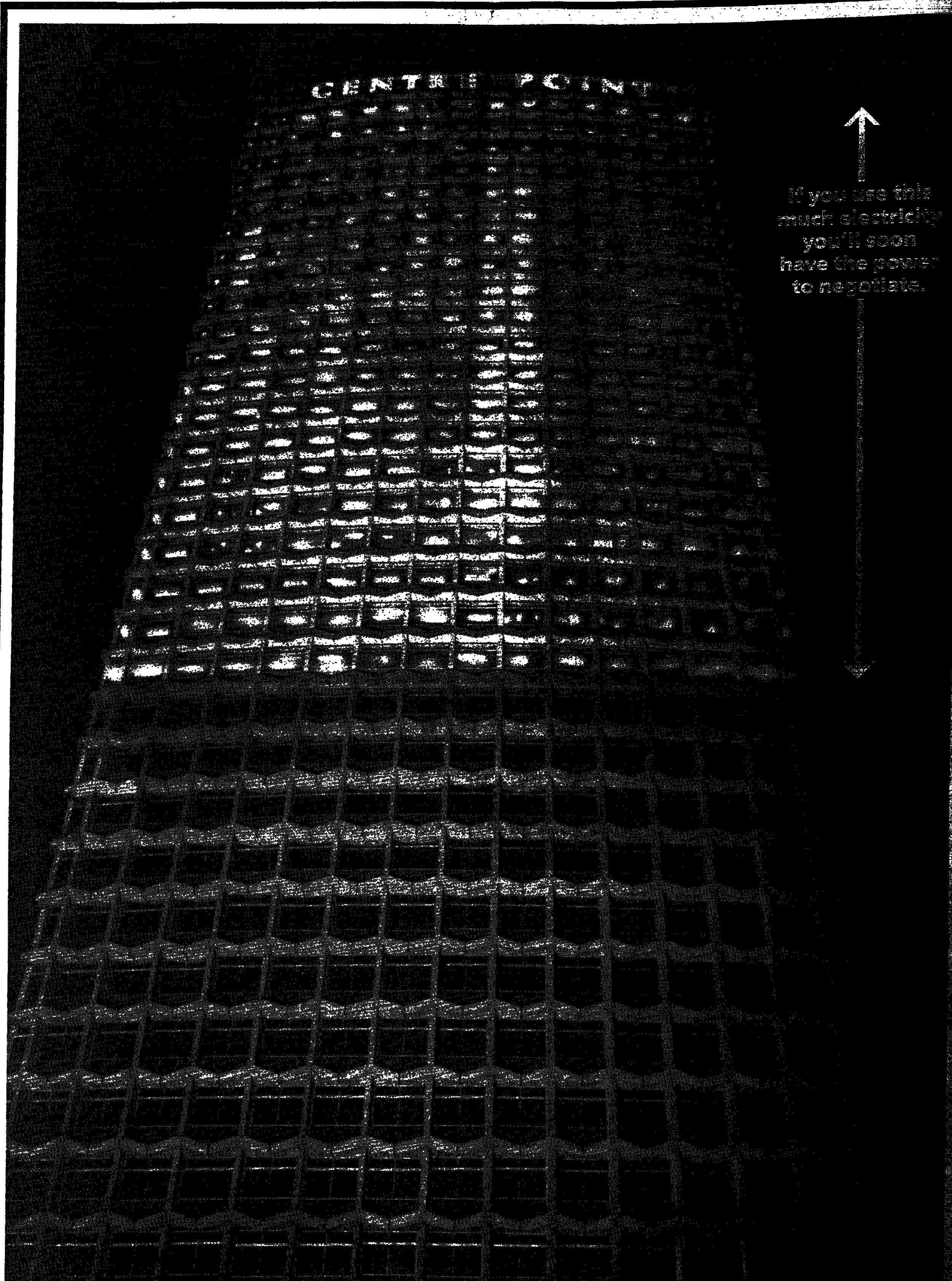
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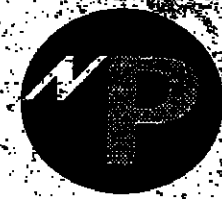
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